

TELEPHONE: (601) 987-3079



FAX: (601) 987-6822

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

KENNETH E. CLEVELAND, M.D. | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 16, 2020

RE: Cannabis for Medicinal Use

In 2018, the American Medical Association (AMA) set forth policy on cannabis legalization for medicinal use.¹ This policy established certain beliefs of the AMA regarding cannabis for medicinal use (colloquially known as “Medical Marijuana”). The Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure (the Board) would echo, reiterate, and expand on these beliefs.

Specifically, the Board believes that proper clinical trials and peer-reviewed research must be conducted to demonstrate the safety and effectiveness of cannabis for medicinal use, as it is with all legal medicines. To this end, the Board would support, for research purposes only, the de-scheduling of cannabis to Schedule II. This will allow the proper trials and research to be conducted to determine what, if any, medicinal use cannabis may have. Until demonstrable evidence is available as described above, the term “Medical Marijuana” is a misnomer – as no traditional safety or efficacy data exists to support this term.

In conclusion, Mississippi is uniquely positioned to perform the necessary research to determine if cannabis is viable as a medicine. The Board does not support the legalization of cannabis for medicinal purposes through state legislative, ballot initiative, or referendum process, until such time as scientifically valid, high-caliber research has been conducted as to the safety and efficacy of cannabis for medicinal purposes.

So Declared by Order of the Board, this the 16th day of January, 2020.


Jeanne Ann Rea, M.D.
Board President
Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure

¹ Cannabis Legalization for Medicinal Use D-95.969