

Information Sheet on HSB 4

In 2008 the Iowa Board of Pharmacy began the process of rescheduling marijuana. The Iowa Board of Pharmacy has filed SSB 1016 which would implement that change, and the Iowa Medical Society supports it. It appears that Rep. Clel Baudler has filed a bill opposing SSB 1016, HSB 4 (House Study Bill 4), which is scheduled for a hearing today.

These are the facts:

Moving marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule II will not do any of the following:

1. **Moving marijuana to Schedule II will not make it legal for anyone to use it.** We have two plants in Schedule II now, coca and opium poppy. Those plants are not prescribed for anything. They are simply source material for pharmaceutical drugs.
2. **Moving marijuana to Schedule II will not change the criminal penalties.** The criminal penalties are in Iowa Code 124.401 and it just says marijuana is a controlled substance. It does not specify which schedule it is in, so changing the scheduling does not change the penalties in any way.
3. **Moving marijuana to Schedule II will have no fiscal impact on the state budget.**
4. **Without federal approval, changing the state scheduling of marijuana does not make it legal for anyone to use it (even for research).**

A resolution adopted by the American Medical Association (AMA) in November 2009 points out, **moving marijuana out of Schedule I will promote research.** Even opponents of medical marijuana claim they support more research. The research could easily go either way on the question of marijuana's medical utility. There's no guarantee that research will support any pre-determined conclusions. Some of us think the results would be positive. Some think the results would be negative. The AMA says we should find out.

Unless Rep. Baudler is opposed to research, we don't understand why he is opposing the Iowa Board of Pharmacy, the American Medical Association, and the Iowa Medical Society.

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