

By Senator Gutman

34-1909-98

1 Senate Resolution No. \_\_\_\_

2 A resolution opposing the legalization of  
3 marijuana for medical purposes.

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5 WHEREAS, the members of the Florida Senate are  
6 committed to protecting the health and safety of our citizens,  
7 especially our young people, and

8 WHEREAS, state law enforcement officials are aware of  
9 individuals and groups who are part of a well-organized,  
10 well-financed national movement to legalize marijuana for  
11 alleged medical use and who may be targeting Florida for their  
12 activities, and

13 WHEREAS, General Barry R. McCaffrey, Director of the  
14 Office of National Drug Control Policy said on October 1,  
15 1997, "At the heart of the federal response is the  
16 preservation of the long-standing, established  
17 medical-scientific process for ensuring that any substance  
18 purporting to be a medicine must undergo the rigorous  
19 evaluation of the scientific process. To exempt any substance  
20 from this time-honored procedure will undermine the  
21 established process that has long protected the American  
22 public so well", and

23 WHEREAS, the American Medical Association, the American  
24 Cancer Society, and other medical associations have rejected  
25 marijuana as medicine, and

26 WHEREAS, research demonstrates that marijuana harms the  
27 brain, heart, lungs, and immune system; limits learning,  
28 memory, perception, and judgment; and impairs the ability to  
29 drive a motor vehicle, and

30 WHEREAS, marijuana smoke typically contains over 400  
31 carcinogenic compounds and may be addictive, and

1           WHEREAS, marijuana, as a Schedule I drug, has a high  
2 potential for abuse and there is no currently accepted medical  
3 use in treatment in the United States, and

4           WHEREAS, to protect the public health and preserve the  
5 integrity of the medical-scientific process by which  
6 substances are approved as safe and effective medicines, all  
7 evaluations of the medical usefulness of any controlled  
8 substance should be conducted through the Congressionally  
9 established research and approval process managed by the  
10 National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug  
11 Administration, and

12           WHEREAS, a medical practitioner's action of  
13 recommending or prescribing Schedule I controlled substances  
14 such as marijuana is not consistent with the law nor public  
15 interest and, furthermore, there are safe, effective, and  
16 legal medical alternatives for those suffering with chronic  
17 pain and other medical problems, and

18           WHEREAS, we believe this effort to be the precursor to  
19 efforts to legalize all drugs of abuse and that legalization  
20 would decrease the perception of risk associated with the use  
21 of drugs of abuse, especially in the eyes of our young people,  
22 and

23           WHEREAS, legalization of drugs of abuse will increase  
24 the number of drug abusers, causing significant health,  
25 social, and crime problems, and

26           WHEREAS, revenues that would purportedly be generated  
27 by taxing sales of legalized drugs of abuse would be  
28 outweighed by the increased health, social, and crime costs  
29 associated with drug abuse, and

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1           WHEREAS, drug use among teens in America has seen a  
2 threefold increase over the past 5 years despite the overall  
3 reduction of drug users, and

4           WHEREAS, the juvenile proportion of total drug  
5 possession arrests grew by 51 percent in Florida between 1992  
6 and 1995, and a recent study shows that 31 percent of  
7 Floridians are "very worried" that their children could become  
8 addicted to drugs, NOW, THEREFORE,

9  
10 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

11  
12           That the Florida Senate is opposed to any proposed  
13 legislation or activities that are not consistent with  
14 established national and state scheduling processes. This  
15 specifically includes the use of marijuana or any other  
16 illegal drug for any purpose in this state.

17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Senate will  
18 actively and aggressively oppose any drug legalization efforts  
19 not consistent with the foregoing which may be proffered now  
20 or in the future.