

POLICY STATEMENT
KANSAS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS
MEDICAL MARIJUANA

The Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP) represents over 90% of the practicing pediatricians in the state. The KAAP has the fundamental goal that all children in Kansas have the opportunity to grow safe and strong. It is with this goal in mind that we are making the following policy statement concerning usage of medical marijuana and cannabinoids. There are a number of facts concerning medical usage of marijuana that we feel should be emphasized:

- The use of medical cannabinoids in those states where it is legal has varied widely with often times little regulation concerning the conditions usage is approved.
- Cannabinoids have proven effective in very specific adult conditions and 3 have been approved by the FDA for use in these instances only.
- While there has been anecdotal reports of benefit in children suffering from certain chronic and debilitating diseases there have been to date no clinical trials on the use of medical marijuana/ cannabinoids in children
- There is data that supports the negative health and brain development of marijuana in children and adolescents
- Notwithstanding this cannabinoids may be an option for life limiting or severely debilitating conditions in children where current therapies are inadequate
- Use of cannabinoids in children should be restricted to those patients in which current therapies have been attempted and are not working and only for compassionate medical purposes on a case-by-case basis.

The KAAP is opposed to the legalization of marijuana and expansion of usage for medical purposes beyond what is approved by the FDA. We caution the use of cannabinoids in children for medical purposes when there is no data concerning the efficacy and potential harmful effects of such usage. The KAAP encourages more research be performed to help better understand any benefits and harms from medical usage. As such we support the lowering of marijuana from a schedule I to schedule II designation by the DEA to facilitate this research. The KAAP advocates for laws that prevent the harsh criminal penalties for possession and use of marijuana.

The KAAP is not opposed to usage of cannabinoids for children in certain chronic debilitating conditions where attempts with current therapies have been exhausted and not proved successful. This usage should be severely limited and only prescribed by licensed pediatric specialist.