

Medical Marijuana and Initiative 65 or 65A

The MAFP Board has issued the following statement:

“The Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians Board of Directors opposes Initiative 65. While both options on the ballot amend the state Constitution, 65A is the better option for Mississippi should medical marijuana pass.”

As the ballot is confusing, we reached out to our lobbyist Ashley Thompson to help explain the differences in the 2 Initiatives if medical marijuana were to pass.

Don't be confused, the answer is simple. NO and 65A

Question 1 - Vote NO on whether or not a medical marijuana program should be added to the Mississippi Constitution.

Question 2 - Vote FOR Initiative 65A as 65A is the SAFEST option provided to voters and ensures the program is properly administered by healthcare professionals and properly regulated for patients.

Initiative 65 puts every Mississippian in immediate danger:

1. It is a reckless policy that gives blanket civil and criminal liability to all prescribing doctors, caregivers, and anyone associated with the marijuana business.
2. It includes a "catch-all" medical condition that would allow any doctor to prescribe marijuana to anyone they subjectively feel would benefit from marijuana. This would without question leave room for widespread abuse of the program.
3. It completely exempts all records of marijuana doctors and marijuana businesses from disclosure and provides them with total confidentiality from disclosure. This would prevent the Mississippi Board of Medical Licensure from properly regulating the behavior of marijuana doctors.
4. Once prescribed, an individual would be entitled to receive 5 ounces of marijuana every 28 days for 1 year
5. It exempts marijuana businesses from local zoning ordinances so that cities and counties will be forced to allow marijuana businesses to operate everywhere that other businesses exist, this could mean next to churches or schools.
6. It caps the tax of marijuana to no more than 7% (the same as a coke and candy bar at the store) and prohibits the state from spending this tax on anything other than the furtherance of the marijuana business.
7. It forces the state to allow an unlimited amount of marijuana business licenses.

Initiative 65A provides for a more regulated medical marijuana program:

1. It must be based on sound medical principles.
2. The administering agency shall seek the input of health professionals to help design the program.
3. The program shall be limited to qualifying individuals with debilitating medical conditions as certified by health practitioners.
4. All products must be of a suitable pharmaceutical quality and prepared by state-licensed manufactures.
5. The program will have a limited number of state-licensed manufactures.
6. There must be a patient registry.