

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

A Resolution Opposing Proposition 64: Marijuana Legalization

WHEREAS, although tobacco use is legal in California under certain conditions, its use is not socially accepted and prevalence is falling; and

WHEREAS, recreational marijuana use is currently illegal under current state and federal laws and would become legal under Prop 64 in the state of California; and

WHEREAS, marijuana is a toxic substance with great abuse potential; and

WHEREAS, Prop 64 creates new businesses with minimal protections for the public that are unlikely to prevent public health harms caused by the growing marijuana industry; and

WHEREAS, the tobacco industry has been considering entering the marijuana business since 1969; and

WHEREAS, there is documented evidence that marijuana use and secondhand exposure poses health risks, include an increased risk for cancer, heart attack, stroke, reproductive toxicity, respiratory impairment, long-lasting detrimental changes in brain function, and increased risk for addiction. As marijuana use increases it is likely that the understanding of these disease links will become more detailed and extensive; and

WHEREAS, evidence from tobacco and alcohol control demonstrates that without a strong public health framework, a wealthy and politically powerful marijuana industry will develop and use its political clout to manipulate regulatory frameworks and thwart public health efforts to reduce use and profits; and

WHEREAS, the California Legislative Analyst's Office, in its fiscal impact estimate reports on the proposed initiatives, failed to consider the economic impact of marijuana legalization on increasing health costs in California; and

WHEREAS, the regulatory licensing authorities defined in the pending marijuana legalization initiatives are agencies whose primary goals are to create a competitive marketplace for businesses, not protect public health; and

WHEREAS, the marijuana advisory committees created in the initiatives contain marijuana industry representatives, so are unlikely to prioritize public health over maximizing business potential; and

WHEREAS, without broad-based media campaigns aimed at the general public (not just youth), California is at risk of reversing years of progress on tobacco control as well as increasing the potential health costs associated with legalizing marijuana; and

WHEREAS, the marijuana tax in the initiatives may not cover the regulatory and public health costs of legalizing marijuana and may require taxpayers to subsidize the adverse consequences and health-related costs associated with increased marijuana use and secondhand exposure, caused by the new marijuana industry, just as they now do for tobacco; and

WHEREAS, the initiatives do not provide adequate funding or time to conduct scientific research to gain a comprehensive understanding of the evolving adverse health effects of legalizing marijuana on population health that can be used to modernize regulation as understanding of these effects improves; and

WHEREAS, the advertising and marketing restrictions in the initiatives will not prevent targeting underage persons (defined as under age 21) or other vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, the proposed warning label is based on ineffective warnings on alcohol products and ignores the extensive research on the effectiveness of using plain or dissuasive tobacco product packaging to reduce and prevent tobacco use; and

WHEREAS, the marijuana product safety and testing standards will be based on voluntary codes established by industry organizations not independent public health agencies, so could compromise public health for the sake of business; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Orange County Board of Education hereby declares an Oppose Position on Proposition 64: Marijuana Legalization in the state of California.

AYES: *Lindholm, Bedell, Gomez, Williams*

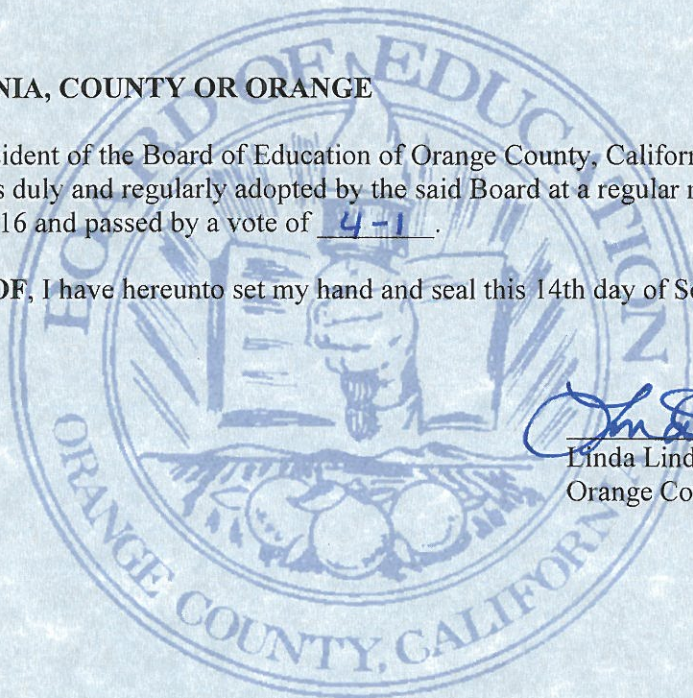
NOES: *Boyd*

ABSENT: *0*

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE

I, Linda Lindholm, President of the Board of Education of Orange County, California, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the said Board at a regular meeting thereof held on the 14th day of September 2016 and passed by a vote of 4-1.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 14th day of September 2016.



Linda Lindholm

Linda Lindholm, President
Orange County Board of Education