

Resolution _____(2016)

WHEREAS, scientific evidence suggests that cannabis is one potential therapy that may mitigate suffering in some patients and also enhance quality of life; and

WHEREAS, cannabis has been used to treat a variety of diseases, conditions, and chronic ailments under legislation of twenty-three states, and the District of Columbia, that have legalized cannabis for medical use, which include, but are not limited to: persistent muscle spasms, nausea, autism, migraines, arthritis, depression, diabetes, chemotherapy induced vomiting, cancer, anorexia, fibromyalgia, cachexia (wasting syndrome), glaucoma, sickle cell anemia, hepatitis C, lupus, muscular dystrophy, epilepsy, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Parkinson's Disease, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Lou Gehrig's Disease, Tourette Syndrome, Alzheimer's Disease, Crohn's Disease, Huntington's Disease, chronic pain and terminal illnesses; and

WHEREAS, seriously ill patients in our community should not be treated like criminals for seeking a treatment that is safer than many prescription drugs, particularly when recommended and approved by a medical practitioner; and

WHEREAS, a majority of enrolled, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian community members, eighteen years or older, who attended and were polled at their respective community club meeting and other community meetings, responded in favor of the legalization of cannabis for medicinal purposes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in Annual Council assembled, at which a quorum is present, that Tribal Council does hereby direct and authorize the Attorney General's Office, in collaboration with representatives of Common Sense Cannabis, to draft an ordinance to establish a medical marijuana law that would allow qualified tribal members to have regulated access to medical cannabis that is produced and provided on tribal trust lands of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said ordinance be prepared for informal initial review by Tribal Council within six months; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that any resolution inconsistent with this resolution be rescinded and that this resolution be effective upon the ratification of the Principal Chief.

Submitted by Joseph Owle, Wolfetown Community, Yona Wade, Painttown Community, and Aaron Hogner, Wolfetown Community.

Sponsored by Vice Chief Richard G. Sneed.