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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****August 21, 2015**[View release online](#)

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## **OHA OPPOSES LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA IN OHIO**

**Columbus, Ohio (43215)** – The Ohio Hospital Association, representing 220 hospitals and 13 health systems in Ohio, opposes the legalization of marijuana in Ohio. ResponsibleOhio’s proposed amendment to the state constitution on the Nov. 3 ballot would allow marijuana use by adults over the age of 21 and legalize medical marijuana for minors, with parental consent.

OHA President and CEO Mike Abrams offers this statement:

*“Marijuana use negatively impacts the long-term health of Ohioans. Our mission is to collaborate with our member hospitals and health systems to ensure a healthy Ohio.*

*Ohio hospitals are committed to providing quality health care in the communities we serve. Research shows specific negative neurological effects on children exposed to second-hand smoke. In Ohio, we continue to be challenged with community health issues such as high infant mortality rates – ranking 45th out of 50 states – and smoking marijuana during pregnancy has been shown to decrease birth weight. Low birth weight is a key factor in Ohio’s infant mortality crisis.*

*OHA strongly opposes the legalization of marijuana in Ohio. We need to focus our collaborative efforts on building a sustainable, affordable and vibrant health care system for all Ohioans and vote no in November for this ballot initiative.”*

### **About Ohio Hospital Association**

Established in 1915, the Ohio Hospital Association represents 220 hospitals and 13 health systems throughout Ohio. OHA, marking its centennial year in 2015, is the nation's oldest state hospital association. With a mission to collaborate with member hospitals and health systems to ensure a healthy Ohio, OHA is focused on three strategic initiatives: patient safety and quality, advocacy and economic sustainability. Follow OHA on Twitter [@OHioHospitals](https://twitter.com/OHioHospitals). OHA's address is 155 East Broad Street, Suite 301, Columbus, Ohio, 43215.

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OHA exists to collaborate with member hospitals and health systems  
to ensure a healthy Ohio.