



HOSPITALS • RESEARCH • FOUNDATION

Opposition to Arkansas Issue 4, Marijuana Legalization Initiative (2022)

“Preventing injury and illness is at the heart of safeguarding child health. Our first responsibility as parents and caregivers should be to our children—because they rely on us to keep them safe and well. Marijuana policies are no different. We must be careful, thoughtful, and keep our children in mind. Various states have legalized marijuana for recreational use. These changes coincide with a decrease in perceived harmfulness of the drug and an increase in its use among youth. Even with age restrictions, any policy that leads to increased adult use of marijuana is likely to lead to increased adolescent use, despite attempts to restrict sales to underage youth. This is of critical concern because of the potential harmful impact of marijuana exposure on children and adolescents.”

Frederick (Rick) Barr, MD MBA
Executive Vice President
Chief Clinical and Academic Officer
Arkansas Children's