



SOUTH CAROLINA BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thinking Biblically about Medical Marijuana

A bill to legalize medical marijuana in South Carolina (the Compassionate Care Act) will be the first bill taken up by the Senate when the 2022 legislative session begins in January. I would like to recommend a book by Todd Miles titled *Cannabis and the Christian: What the Bible says about Marijuana*. The book takes an honest look at the effects of marijuana and how God's Word addresses the use of intoxicants. Whatever we believe about medical marijuana, we need to realize that it is first an intoxicant and then a pain reliever. In fact, many researchers believe any relief of pain experienced by someone who uses



Foster Care, Adoption, and Kinship Care.

God's Word is clear concerning the value of human life. God is our Creator and He has declared that each human being is created in His image (Gen. 1:26) and that each human being is fearfully and wonderfully made (Ps. 139:14). The value of human life begins in the womb at the moment of conception, is maintained throughout our earthly existence, and extends to the moment we stand before our Creator to give an account of our time here on earth. If we stand alone on that day, we stand condemned. If we stand with Christ as our Advocate, our Redeemer, as the One whose blood covers our sins, we stand in celebration of eternity with God.

Pro-life followers of Jesus believe that we must stand together to protect life in the womb and to pour out our



Thinking Biblically about Marijuana (cont.)

marijuana is a result of the combination of THC and the intoxicating effects of ingesting marijuana. God's Word clearly condemns intoxication (Is.29:9; Eph. 5:18). In order to control chronic pain, a person will have to continually use whatever method they have chosen for that relief. Marijuana is an opioid. It is a psychoactive drug. Long term use of marijuana increases the likelihood of addiction, which is also condemned by God's Word (2 Peter 2:19). It increases the possibility of detrimental side effects, including damage to the lungs, brain, and heart. The risk of progressive addiction that requires the user to seek stronger and stronger remedies for pain makes marijuana a candidate for enslaving the user to a stronger drug.

compassion, our resources, and our care for those who've exited the womb and are facing the challenges of life. One of the ways we can stand together to protect children as they live in this world is to support adoption, foster care, and kinship care programs that match children who are unloved and unwanted with a loving, welcoming family who will provide them with an opportunity to flourish. Palmetto Family is working with the Governor's Office by creating a task force for the purpose of examining and improving South Carolina's adoption and foster care programs.

For too many children, the wait to be joined with a foster family and begin the path to adoption is much too long and contains too many regulatory road blocks. For too many foster parents and adoptive parents, there are too many hoops to jump through in order to provide the loving, caring environment so many children need. We need to reform the system to make it more friendly to both the children and the parents. We need to commit to abide by the laws and



regulations that are already on the books and we need to work on new legislation that will shorten the wait between the time a child enters the system and when they are placed with a foster or adoptive family.

Please pray for the work of this task force, that meaningful reform will rise from the effort of the task force members. Pray that God will grant the wisdom and the courage to make South Carolina's adoption, foster care, and kinship care system one that efficiently and effectively meets the needs of the children and the prospective parents. For more information on the Task Force, go to www.palmettofamily.org.

Pray for our elected officials:



Rep. Linda "Lin" Bennett

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Representing: District 114 - Charleston and Dorchester Counties

Committee Assignments: Education and Public Works where she serves a First Vice-Chairman.



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Representing: District 18 - Lexington, Newberry, and Union Counties.

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