



Lawmakers Call For An End To Federal Marijuana Prosecutions

Washington, DC, USA: Massachusetts Democrat Barney Frank, along with co-sponsor Texas Republican Ron Paul, reintroduced legislation today to limit the federal government's authority to arrest and prosecute minor marijuana offenders.

The measure, entitled an "Act to Remove Federal Penalties for Personal Use of Marijuana by Responsible Adults," would eliminate federal penalties for the personal possession of up to 100 grams (over three and one-half ounces) of cannabis and for the not-for-profit transfer of up to one ounce of pot – making the prosecutions of these offenses strictly a state matter.

Under federal law, defendants found guilty of possessing small amounts of cannabis for their own personal use face up to one year imprisonment and a \$1,000 fine.

Passage of this act would

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U.S. Physicians Announce Founding Of American Academy Of Cannabinoid Medicine

Santa Barbara, CA, USA: A coalition of US physicians and researchers has founded a new organization dedicated to promoting ethical standards in therapeutic cannabis treatment.

"The American Academy of Cannabinoid Medicine ... is a professional medical organization dedicated to the clinical and scientific understanding of the endocannabinoid system and the therapeutic application of cannabis and cannabinoids," the group states in a press release.

It continues: "The Academy serves as an authoritative information source for doctors, state medical boards and the media on the medical application and research related to the clinical use of cannabis

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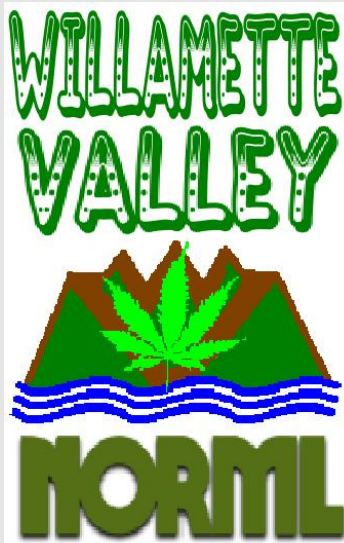
Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act Reintroduced In Congress

Washington, DC, USA: Massachusetts Democrat Barney Frank, along with co-sponsor Texas Republican Ron Paul, reintroduced legislation today to enact legal protections for state-authorized medical marijuana patients.

The Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act of 2009, would ensure that medical cannabis patients in states that have approved its use will no longer have to fear arrest or prosecution from federal law enforcement agencies.

Thirteen states – Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington – have enacted laws protecting medical marijuana patients from state prosecution. Yet in all of these

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The Willamette Valley NORML News Report

is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit project to record and broadcast news, announcements and information about cannabis law reform.

The W-V-NORML News Report is produced by the Eugene, OREGON chapter of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

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Check 'em out on-line! *visit:*

WillametteValleyNORML.org

A Voice for Responsible Marijuana Smokers

Since its founding in 1970, NORML has provided a voice in the public policy debate for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition and favor an end to the practice of arresting marijuana smokers. A nonprofit public-interest advocacy group, NORML represents the interests of the tens of millions of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly. During the 1970s, NORML led the successful efforts to decriminalize minor marijuana offenses in 11 states and significantly lower marijuana penalties in all others.

The oldest and largest marijuana legalization organization in the country, NORML maintains a professional staff in Washington, DC, and a network of volunteer state and local [NORML Chapters](#) across the country. Check 'em out, and find the one nearest you!

The NORML mission is to move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is no longer subject to penalty.

When marijuana is enjoyed responsibly, subjecting users to harsh criminal and civil penalties provides no public benefit and causes terrible injustices. For reasons of public safety, public health, economics and justice, the prohibition laws should be repealed to the extent that they criminalize responsible marijuana use. **NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws – is located at 1600 K Street, NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20006-2832. Phone (202) 483-5500, Fax: (202) 483-0057 or visit: www.norml.org**

Today Willamette Valley NORML joins the fight to reform state and federal marijuana laws, whether by voter initiative or through the elected legislatures. W-V-NORML will serve as an informational resource to media on marijuana-related stories, providing a perspective to offset the [anti-marijuana propaganda](#) from the government; lobby state and federal legislators in support of reform legislation; publish a regular [newsletter](#); host an informative web site; and serve as the umbrella group for a regional network of citizen-activists committed to ending marijuana prohibition and legalizing marijuana.

Along with their parent organization, W-V-NORML will sponsor public advertising campaigns to better educate the public about marijuana and alternatives to current marijuana policy; provide legal assistance and support to victims of the current laws; and promote relevant research.

W-V-NORML supports the right of adults to use marijuana responsibly, whether for [medical](#) or [personal](#) purposes. All penalties, both civil and criminal, should be eliminated for responsible use. W-V-NORML also advocates the legalization of [hemp](#) (non-psychoactive marijuana) for industrial use. **To find out more, like how you can help, call, write or visit our website. You'll be glad you did!**

<continued from END TO FEDERAL MARIJUANA PROSECUTIONS, page 1 > provide state lawmakers the choice to maintain their current penalties for minor marijuana offenses or eliminate them completely. Lawmakers would also have the option to explore legal alternatives to tax and regulate the adult use and distribution of cannabis free from federal interference.

To date, thirteen states have enacted laws 'decriminalizing' the possession of marijuana by adults. Minor marijuana offenders face a citation and small fine in lieu of a criminal arrest or time in jail.

"The federal government has much more important business to attend to than targeting, arresting and prosecuting adults who use marijuana responsibly," NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said. "This is an issue that ought to be handled by the states, not the Feds."

According to nationwide polls, three out of four voters believe that adults who possess marijuana should not face arrest or jail, and one out of two now say that cannabis should be regulated like alcohol. The reintroduction of the Frank/Paul bill comes one week after the duo reintroduced HR 2835, The Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act of 2009 – which seeks to halt federal interference in states that have enacted medical marijuana laws – and just days after Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL) called for federal legislation to sentence certain first-time marijuana offenders to 25 years in prison.

"The US Congress has a definite choice," said St. Pierre. "They can choose the path of compassion, fiscal responsibility, and common sense by supporting Barney Frank's and Ron Paul's efforts, or they can continue down America's failed drug war path by endorsing Rep. Kirk's draconian legislation. It is abundantly clear which direction the voters wish to go; will their elected officials follow?"

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500. Additional information about the 'Act to Remove Federal Penalties for Personal Use of Marijuana by Responsible Adults' is available at NORML's Take Action Center at: <http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/>

<continued from PHYSICIANS ANNOUNCE ACADEMY, page 1 > and cannabinoids. We are dedicated to educating physicians about the clinical therapeutic usefulness of cannabis to relieve symptoms of the myriad of diseases that respond to this class of medications."

Members of the organization "will promote high medical ethical and practice standards in the approval and recommendation of cannabis for medicinal purposes." According to the organization's website, the AACM has

"developed certifying practice standards and guidelines for practicing physicians who recommend and approve the medicinal use of cannabis acting within state law."

"Our mission is to foster the highest standards in the practice of cannabinoid medicine," the website states. *For more information about the American Academy of Cannabinoid Medicine, please visit: <http://aacmsite.org>.*

<continued from PATIENT PROTECTION ACT REINTRODUCED, page 1 > states patients and providers still face the risk of federal sanction – even when their actions are fully compliant with state law.

Commenting on the bill, NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said: "This legislation seeks to amend the discrepancy between federal law and the laws of over a dozen states that have enacted regulations governing the therapeutic use of cannabis. These citizens and representatives, as well as patients and lawmakers from additional states that seek to regulate the controlled use of medicinal marijuana, should be allowed to act in a manner that is free from federal interference."

Previous versions of the Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act were introduced in both the 108th and 109th Congress, but failed to receive a public hearing or a committee vote.

Passage of the Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act would ensure that medical cannabis patients or providers who are compliant with state law, such as Charles Lynch (who was sentenced today in federal court), would no longer have to fear arrest and

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While campaigning for the presidency, Barack Obama pledged not to use Justice Department resources "to try and circumvent state (medical marijuana) laws." Nevertheless, agents from the US Drug Enforcement Administration have continued to target medical marijuana providers in states that allow for the drug's use.

For more information on The **PATIENT PROTECTION ACT**, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500. Additional information about the Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act of 2009 is available at NORML's Take Action Center at:

<http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/>

Rhode Island: State To License Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

Providence, RI, USA: Lawmakers passed legislation this week making Rhode Island the second state to license and regulate the distribution of medical marijuana to authorized patients.

Republican Gov. Donald Carcieri vetoed the 2009 Medical Marijuana Act last week. But on Tuesday, members of the General Assembly voted to override the Governor's veto by a vote of 102 to 3.

The new law takes effect immediately.

Earlier this year the New Mexico legislature codified language allowing for the state to license non-profit facilities to dispense medicinal cannabis. However, no such facilities are presently up and running.

In California, several hundred facilities provide medical cannabis to qualified patients, though these operations are typically regulated by local governments.

Approximately 700 Rhode Island residents are registered with the state to use marijuana legally. Lawmakers legalized the possession and use of medicinal cannabis by authorized patients in 2007. For more information, please visit: <http://ripatients.org>.

Department Of Justice Urged To Clarify Administration's Medical Marijuana Policy

Washington, DC, USA: Members of the US House Appropriations Committee approved an amendment this week that seeks to clarify the Obama Administration's policy toward medical marijuana patients and providers in states that have authorized the drug's therapeutic use.

The amendment, sponsored by Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) as part of the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies appropriations bill, reads: "There have been conflicting public reports about the Department's (of Justice's) enforcement of medical marijuana policies. Within 60 days of enactment, the Department shall provide to the Committee clarification of the Department's policy regarding enforcement of federal laws and use of federal resources against individuals involved in medical marijuana activities."

In March, US Attorney General Eric Holder stated that he would not authorize federal justice resources to target or prosecute medical cannabis users or providers that are compliant with state law. However, agents from the US Drug Enforcement Administration have continued to target medical marijuana providers in California and other states, and federal prosecutors have continued to bring federal anti-drug charges against defendants who were acting in accordance with their state's cannabis laws.

"I've been greatly encouraged by what President Obama and Attorney General Holder's public statements in support of state's determining their own medical marijuana, but remain concerned about the matter since the federal government has still continued raids in states that permit the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes," Rep. Hinchey said in a prepared statement. "This provision will provide Congress with the transparency we need to determine whether any further legislative action is needed. It's imperative that the federal government respect states' rights

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The full House is expected to consider the bill shortly.

For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500.

"Cannabinoids Could Be Useful In The Treatment Of Cancer," Scientific Review Finds

Dunedin, New Zealand: Cannabinoids inhibit cancer cell survival and "could be useful in the treatment of cancer," according to a forthcoming review to be published in the journal *Cancer Letters*.

Investigators at the University of Otago (New Zealand), Department of Pharmacology, reported, "[C]annabinoids have been shown to have anti-proliferative, anti-metastatic, anti-angiogenic and pro-apoptotic effects in various cancer types (lung, glioma, thyroid, lymphoma, skin, pancreas, uterus, breast, and prostate carcinoma) using both *in vitro* and *in vivo* models.

Previous trials have reported that cannabinoids can selectively target and kill malignant cancer cells while ignoring healthy cells, as well as reduce the growth of new blood vessels to cancerous tumors.

A 2008 review by investigators at the University of Wisconsin concluded, "[T]here is overwhelming evidence to suggest that cannabinoids can be explored as chemotherapeutic agents for the treatment of cancer."

Commenting on the forthcoming review, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said: "Cannabinoids may one day represent a new class of non-toxic anti-cancer drugs that can halt the spread of the disease without inducing the painful and life-threatening side effects of chemotherapy. It is shameful that politics and

US government propaganda have halted the research and exploration of these compounds as anti-cancer agents."

For more information, please please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Cannabinoids in the treatment of cancer," will appear in the journal *Cancer Research*. Additional information on the use of cannabinoids as potential anti-cancer agents is available online at: http://www.norml.org//index.cfm?Group_ID=7002.

California: Senate Resolution Calls For No More Federal Marijuana Raids

Sacramento, CA, USA: State Senator Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) introduced legislation this week urging the federal government to cease targeting medical marijuana patients and providers in California.

Senate Joint Resolution 14 calls on Congress to stop interfering with state medical marijuana laws and to support clinical trials to better assess the drug's safety and efficacy.

"Patients and providers in California remain at risk of arrest and prosecution by federal law enforcement and legally established medical marijuana cooperatives continue to be the subjects of federal raids," Leno said in a prepared statement. "When passed, this resolution will clearly state the Legislature's opposition to federal interference with California's medical marijuana law and support for expanded federal reform and medical research." For more information, please visit NORML's Take Action Center at: <http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/>.

Feds' Top Pot Researcher Says Marijuana Should Be Legal

Los Angeles, CA, USA: A University of California researcher who has performed US-government sponsored studies of marijuana

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In an interview with the McClatchy newspaper chain, Donald Tashkin of the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, said:

"[A]t this point, I'd be in favor of (marijuana) legalization. I wouldn't encourage anybody to smoke any substances. But I don't think it should be stigmatized as an illegal substance. Tobacco smoking causes far more harm. And in terms of an intoxicant, alcohol causes far more harm (than marijuana)."

Tashkin said that when he began his work thirty years ago, he "opposed ... legalization because [he] thought it would lead to increased use and that would lead to increased health effects." However, he now admits that his decades' worth of scientific research revealed an opposite conclusion.

In 2006, Tashkin led the largest population case-control study ever to assess the use of marijuana and lung cancer risk. The study, which included more than 2,200 subjects (1,212 cases and 1,040 controls), reported that marijuana smoking was not positively associated with cancers of the lung or upper aerodigestive tract – even among individuals who reported smoking more than 22,000 joints during their lifetime.

"What we found instead was no association and even a suggestion of some protective effect," Tashkin told the newspaper chain, noting that cannabinoids cause "cells [to] die ... before they age enough to develop mutations that might lead to cancer."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. For more information on marijuana smoke and cancer risk, please see:

http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6891. *A literature review of cannabinoids' anti-cancer properties is available at: http://www.norml.org//index.cfm?Group_ID=7008*

Oral THC Improves Symptoms Of Schizophrenia, Study Says

Orangeburg, NY, USA: Daily administration of oral synthetic THC significantly improves symptoms of schizophrenia, according to the findings of an open-label case series published this month in the *Journal of Clinical Psychopharmacology*.

Investigators at the Rockland Psychiatric Center in Orangeburg, New York, and the New York University School of Medicine, administered 2.5 to 5 mg doses of oral THC (dronabinol) for a period of eight weeks to six patients diagnosed with chronic, refractory schizophrenia. All of the patients enrolled in the study had reported previously using cannabis to mitigate their condition.

"Four of the 6 patients improved to a clinically significant extent (after taking dronabinol)," researchers reported. "Three of the six patients had a robust response, with modest to marked reductions in core psychotic symptoms.

Patients 1 and 2 showed improvement within several weeks of beginning the medication, whereas patient 3 required 8 weeks to reach significant improvement. In addition, robust improvement in overall functioning was also observed, with patients 1 to 3 changing from being gravely ill to being functioning individuals able to be discharged. Patient 4 had more limited improvement in that he was calmer, cooperative, and less aggressive but had persistence of his core psychosis. Nevertheless, his overall functioning was significantly improved. ... There were no clinically adverse effects."

Investigators concluded, "These results ... open a possible new role for cannabinoids in the treatment of schizophrenia."

Previous studies assessing the use of marijuana in patients with schizophrenia have produced mixed results. A 2007 German study reported improved cognition in patients who used cannabis, and a 2008 Australian study found that patients diagnosed with schizophrenia report experiencing subjective relief from pot.

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<continued from previous page> Critics of medical cannabis use have argued that heavy marijuana use may exacerbate psychosis in patients with mental illness. However, the largest trial ever conducted comparing cannabis using and non-using schizophrenic patients reported no statistically significant "differences in symptoms between schizophrenic patients who were or were not cannabis users" after controlling for patients' age, sex, and ethnicity.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Synthetic Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (dronabinol) can improve symptoms of schizophrenia," appears in the June issue of the Journal of Clinical Psychopharmacology.

California: Marijuana Smoke Added To State's List Of Carcinogens

Sacramento, CA, USA: The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) and the California Environmental Protection Agency have added marijuana smoke to the state's list of official carcinogens, pursuant to Title 27, California Code of Regulations, section 25305(a)(1).

Under state law, the Governor's office is required to publish an annual list of chemicals that possess potential carcinogenic properties and/or are associated with reproductive toxicity, such as arsenic, lead, and tobacco smoke. Products containing such chemicals are required to carry warning labels. Business establishments with ten employees or more are also mandated to post signs indicating whether there is a likelihood that an individual may be exposed to such chemicals while on the premises.

State environmental regulators determined that there is "limited" evidence "suggestive" that marijuana smoke exposure may be associated with an increased cancer risk in humans. Their review added, "[T]he similarities in chemical composition and in toxicological activity between marijuana smoke and tobacco smoke,

and the presence of numerous carcinogens in marijuana (and tobacco) smoke, provide additional evidence of carcinogenicity."

Presently, over 300 separate chemicals – including aspirin and alcoholic beverages – are designated as carcinogens under California law.

Labeling requirements for marijuana smoke will not take effect until June 2010. Neither marijuana nor edible products containing marijuana will be designated as carcinogens under state law.

Regulators made no official determination regarding the status of cannabis vapor, which does not contain combustion gases and has been determined to be a "safe and effective vehicle" for cannabis delivery in clinical trials.

Authors of the review did note that the largest population case-control study ever to assess the use of marijuana and lung cancer risk did not find a positive association between long-term cannabis smoking and cancer.

California NORML Coordinator Dale Geiringer said that the ruling did not come as a surprise because it has been well known for years that cannabis smoke contains known carcinogenic chemicals. However, he noted that the intake of these noxious chemicals "can be completely eliminated by vaporization or by consuming marijuana orally."

NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said that it remains unclear what effect, if any, these new regulations will have on the dispensing of medical marijuana in California. "Since it is marijuana smoke, not marijuana per se, that is at issue here, it is not clear that legally operating medicinal cannabis dispensaries will have to alter their actions to comply with Prop. 65," he said – noting that few such facilities allow patients to smoke cannabis on the premises. "Liquor stores are not required to post warnings on the premises

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News From *your* local affiliate of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

<continued from previous page> just because they dispense alcohol, so why would medical cannabis dispensaries be treated any differently?"

For more information, please contact Dale Gieringer, California NORML Coordinator, at (415) 563-5858 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.

Marijuana Reform Questions Once Again Popular In White House Online Poll

Washington, DC, USA: Questions pertaining to marijuana law reform are among the most popular public policy issues, as voted on by the public, in a new White House online poll.

Specifically, the public's call to legalize and regulate marijuana for personal and medical purposes finished among the top 10 questions, according to the poll.

In all, over 900 policy questions were submitted and voted on by the public during the week of May 21 to May 28, 2009.

According to the White House, the purpose of the poll is to "ensure that [the public's] ideas inform the development of open government recommendations and the writing of subsequent policy and the development of open government projects as soon as possible."

*** NOTE! The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting * Happens every 4th Sat. of the month and will be at h'ERb'S Toasted Subs, 1210 Willamette St, Eugene call: 541.517-0957 -or- visit: <http://WillametteValleyNORML.org>**



It's One Hell of A Joint!

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In previous White House sponsored online polls, questions pertaining to the legalization of marijuana have consistently garnered the top spot.

Commenting on the results, NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said: "In both online surveys and in national public opinion polls, voters' support for common sense marijuana law reform – including the regulation of cannabis for adults – is greater than at any time in history. For the Obama administration, marijuana law reform represents a political opportunity, not a political liability. Federal lawmakers from both parties would be wise to embrace the results of this and other polls and act accordingly."

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at: (202) 483-5500.

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