

News, Announcements and Information from

**WILLAMETTE VALLEY NORML**



*your local chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws*

**NORML WOMEN'S ALLIANCE**

WOMEN WORKING TO REFORM MARIJUANA LAWS

### **National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws Launches NORML Women's Alliance**

**Washington, DC, USA:** The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), the nation's oldest and most well respected grassroots marijuana law reform organization, today announced the launch of the **NORML Women's Alliance**.

The NORML Women's Alliance is a nonpartisan coalition of prominent, educated, successful, geographically diverse, high-profile professional women who believe that cannabis prohibition is a self-destructive and hypocritical policy that undermines the American family, sends a mixed and false message to our young people, and destroys the cherished principles of personal liberty and local self-government.

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### **Federal Agency In Charge Of Marijuana Research Admits Stifling Studies On Medicinal Cannabis; NIDA does "not fund research focused on the potential medical benefits of marijuana"**

**Rockville, MD, USA:** A spokesperson for the U.S. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) told the *New York Times* last week that the agency does "not fund research focused on the potential medical benefits of marijuana."

Under federal law, the agency must approve all clinical and preclinical research involving marijuana. NIDA strictly controls which investigators are allowed access to the federal government's lone research supply of pot - which is produced and stored at the University of Mississippi.

NIDA spokeswoman Shirley

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### **Seattle: City Will No Longer Prosecute Marijuana Possession Offenses**

**Seattle, WA, USA:** Newly elected city attorney Peter Holmes will no longer prosecute minor marijuana possession offenses, according to a report published in *The Seattle Times*.

"[The city of Seattle] is no longer going to prosecute marijuana possession cases anymore," said Holmes. The *Times* reports that Holmes has already begun dismissing cases that were filed by the previous city attorney, Tom Carr.

Holmes defeated Carr in the November 2009 election.

In 2003, Seattle voters approved Initiative 75, which requires that "the Seattle Police Department and City Attorney's Office shall make the investigation, arrest and prosecution of marijuana offenses, when the marijuana was intended for adult personal

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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

----- Making contact -----

*You can Snail Mail:*

The W-V-NORML Newsletter team by writing to -

**P.O. Box 10957  
Eugene, OR 97440**

*E-mailing:*

newsroom@willamettevalleynorml.org

or phoning: **541-517-0957**

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](http://www.norml.org)**

Willamette Valley NORML is your local network in 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 NORML WOMEN, page 1 > Says NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre: "The prominent role of women in the effort to end marijuana prohibition is pivotal, necessary, and long overdue. According to recent national opinion polls by Gallup and others, the dramatic rise in the public's support of marijuana law reform is being driven primarily by an increase in support among America's women. The NORML Women's Alliance will bring a contemporary approach to the public policy debate, and will proudly represent the interests of modern, mainstream women who believe that the negative consequences of marijuana prohibition far outweigh any repercussions from marijuana consumption itself."

Charter members of the NORML Women's Alliance include: NORML Foundation chair and film producer Ann Druyan, attorney and political activist Jessica Corry, editor Shelby Sadler, best-selling author Barbara Ehrenreich, Beverly Hills NORML director Cheryl Shuman, NORML Foundation board member Jeralyn Merritt, Esq., cannabis activist and author Mikki Norris, Cannabis Action Network and Berkeley Patients Group founder Debby Goldsberry, NORML board member and director of Oregon NORML Madeline Martinez, law professor Marjorie Russell, and former ACLU president Nadine Strossen. This founding group of women also includes medical physicians, researchers, business leaders, editors, publishers, mothers, grandmothers, and great grandmothers.

The NORML Women's Alliance holds the following positions:

1. ***The NORML Women's Alliance believes that the fiscal priorities of marijuana prohibition are wasting billions of dollars on a failed policy.***
2. ***The NORML Women's Alliance believes that marijuana prohibition violates states' rights, and improperly expands the reach of government into the families and personal lives of otherwise law-abiding citizens.***
3. ***The NORML Women's Alliance advocates for an open, honest***

***conversation about marijuana with America's youth that is void of all propaganda and misleading information.***

4. ***The NORML Women's Alliance endorses the science-based evidence regarding the therapeutic applications of medical marijuana as well as the continuation of research into the subject.***
5. ***The NORML Women's Alliance strongly opposes the sexual exploitation and objectification of women in pot-culture and business marketing.***

"A marijuana policy that fosters children selling marijuana en mass must immediately change, and be replaced by one that effectively stops children from trafficking in marijuana," says Sabrina Fendrick, coordinator of the NORML Women's Alliance. "The NORML Women's Alliance seeks to replace a failed, tax coffer-draining and child endangering 73-year old cannabis prohibition with functional, tax-producing and youth-friendly cannabis policies consisting of legal and social controls that are not at all dissimilar to our existing, commonsensible and ever-evolving alcohol policies."

Further information about the NORML Women's Alliance is available online at: <http://www.norml.org/women> - or, by contacting NORML's Sabrina Fendrick at 202-483-5500, or by emailing [womensalliance@norml.org](mailto:womensalliance@norml.org).

<continued from NIDA STIFLES STUDIES, page 1 > Simson told the *Times*: "As the National Institute on Drug Abuse, our focus is primarily on the negative consequences of marijuana use. We generally do not fund research focused on the potential beneficial medical effects of marijuana."

NIDA presently oversees an estimated 85 percent of the world's research on controlled substances.

Commenting on NIDA's admission NORML

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<continued from previous page> Deputy Director Paul Armentano said, "NIDA has finally admitted to the world the 'Catch-22' that has been plaguing medical marijuana advocates and patients. Lawmakers demand clinical research regarding the safety and efficacy of medical cannabis, but the agency in charge of such research denies these studies from ever taking place. It's tragic that these public officials have let political ideology, not science, determine American's health decisions."

In 2007, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Administrative Law Judge Mary Ellen Bittner ruled that NIDA's monopolization of marijuana research is not "in the public interest," and ordered the federal government to allow private manufacturers to produce the drug for research purposes. In January of last year, DEA Deputy Administrator Michele Leonhart set aside Judge Bittner's ruling.

This week President Barack Obama announced his selection of Leonhart to be the DEA's Director.

*For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.*

<continued from SEATTLE, page 1 > use, the city's lowest law enforcement priority."

A 2008 citywide review of the ordinance reported "no evidence of any adverse effects of the implementation of I-75, including specifically: 1. No evident increase in marijuana use among youth and young adults; 2. No evident increase in crime; and 3. No adverse impact on public health."

On Wednesday, state lawmakers on the House Committee on Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness voted 5 to 3 against a pair of measures that sought to liberalize Washington's marijuana laws. The first, House Bill 2401, sought to regulate the adult use and possession of marijuana like alcohol. The second, HB 1177, sought to reduce the penalties on minor marijuana possession offenses from a criminal misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine to a monetary penalty of no more than \$100.

All three Republican members of Committee rejected the measures, as did two Democrats. Both Democrat opponents are former police officers.

*For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.*

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## **New Hampshire: Lawmakers Debate Marijuana Legalization Measure**

**Concord, NH, USA:** State lawmakers heard testimony on Wednesday in support of taxing and regulating the commercial production and distribution of marijuana for adults.

Members of the House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee heard arguments in favor of House Bill 1652, which "allows [for] the purchase and use of marijuana by adults (age 21 or older), regulates the purchase and use of marijuana, and imposes taxes on the wholesale and retail sale of marijuana."

Lawmakers at the hearing also heard testimony in favor of HB 1653, which seeks to *amend certain marijuana possession penalties from a criminal misdemeanor to a civil fine.*

*For more information, please visit: <http://nhcommonsense.org>, or visit NORML's Take Action Center at: <http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/>.*

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## **Washington: Lawmakers Hold First-Ever Hearing On Marijuana Legalization**

**Olympia, WA, USA:** State lawmakers heard testimony on Wednesday in support of taxing and regulating the commercial production and distribution of marijuana for adults.

Members of the House Committee on Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness heard arguments in favor of House Bill 2401, which seeks to "remove all existing civil and criminal penalties for adults 21 years of age or older who cultivate, possess, transport, sell, or use marijuana." The hearing marked the first time

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<continued from previous page> that state lawmakers had ever debated the merits of regulating the use and sale of cannabis.

Lawmakers at the hearing also heard testimony in favor of HB 1177, which seeks to reduce the penalties on minor marijuana possession offenses from a criminal misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine to a monetary penalty of no more than \$100.

The Committee is scheduled to vote on both measures on Wednesday, January 20, 2010.

*For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. To read NORML's testimony in support of HB 2401 and HB 1177, please visit: [http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=8079](http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=8079). For additional information on these proposed measures, please see: <http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/>.*

## **California: Lawmakers Cast First Vote In Nearly 100 Years To Repeal Marijuana Prohibition**

**Sacramento, CA, USA:** Lawmakers on the California Assembly, Committee on Public Safety, voted 4 to 3 on Tuesday (1/12/10) in favor of Assembly Bill 390: The Marijuana Control, Regulation, and Education Act – which seeks to legalize the production, distribution, and personal use of marijuana for adults age 21 and older. The vote is the first time since 1913, when California became one of the first states in the nation to criminalize the use and possession of marijuana, that lawmakers have called for the repeal of cannabis prohibition.

"Today's vote marks the first time in nearly a century that California lawmakers have reassessed this failed criminal policy," said NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano. "Any risks presented by the use of marijuana by adults falls within the ambit of choice we should permit individuals in a free society. It's time to replace the failings of marijuana prohibition with a policy of legalization, regulation and education. Today's vote is a significant, albeit first step in this direction."

Further Assembly votes on AB 390 are unlikely to take place this session because of legislative calendar restraints. However, the bill's sponsor, San Francisco Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, has pledged to reintroduce a similar marijuana legalization measure imminently.

Registered supporters for AB 390 include: the AFL-CIO, the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), and the California Public Defenders Association, among others.

Registered opponents of the bill include: the California Fraternal Order of Police, the California Narcotics Officers Association, the California Police Chiefs Association, the California State Sheriffs' Association, the California Peace Officers' Association, and the California District Attorneys Association.

Voting 'yes' in favor of SB 390 were Ammiano, Assemblyman Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo, Assemblyman Jared Huffman, D-San Rafael and Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner, D-Berkeley. Voting no were Assemblyman Warren Furutani, D-Gardena (Los Angeles County), Assemblyman Danny Gilmore, R-Hanford (Kings County) and Assemblyman Curt Hagman, R-Chino Hills (San Bernardino County). *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org, or Dale Gieringer, California NORML Coordinator at: 415-563-5858 or online at: <http://www.canorml.org>. Video footage of today's hearings is archived online on the California Channel at: <http://www.calchannel.com/>.*

## **Los Angeles City Council Enacts Medical Marijuana Oversight Regulations**

**Los Angeles, CA, USA:** Members of the Los Angeles City Council voted 9 to 3 on Tuesday in favor of regulations capping the total number of medical marijuana dispensaries that may legally operate within the county, and restricting where such facilities may be located. <continued on next page>

<continued from previous page> The new ordinance, which won't take effect until at least 45 days after the mayor's signature, seeks to limit the number of legally zoned dispensaries to no more than 70 countywide. However, the regulations will allow for additional facilities to maintain operations if they opened prior to the passage of city's 2007 moratorium prohibiting new dispensaries, and if they comply with the newly enacted guidelines.

Under the new rules, city officials would require dispensaries to be at least 1,000 feet from certain "sensitive" public locations, such as schools, parks and other gathering sites – restrictions that would cause many existing outlets to either close their doors or change locations.

According to a 2009 review by the *Los Angeles Weekly*, approximately 545 medical marijuana outlets are presently operating in L.A. County.

Commenting on the ordinance, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said: "There is nothing wrong with the nation's second largest city seeking to enact sensible regulations governing the distribution of medical cannabis. Ideally, however, these regulations ought to acknowledge that a majority of voters support these operations, and that they dispense a product that is objectively safer than commonly prescribed pharmaceuticals. Unfortunately, this ordinance fails to acknowledge this reality." For more information, please contact Dale Gieringer, California NORML Coordinator, at (415) 563-5858 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.

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## California: Supreme Court Affirms State's Pot Possession Limits Are A Floor, Not A Ceiling

**San Francisco, CA, USA:** The California Supreme Court unanimously ruled on Thursday that the state's medical marijuana possession and cultivation guidelines, enacted by the legislature in 2004, do not supersede the broader patient protections provided by California's Compassionate Use Act of 1996. In a 53-page decision (*The People v Patrick K. Kelly*), the Court found that patients who

possess quantities of medical cannabis above those recommended under the state's 2004 law (six mature or twelve immature plants and/or eight ounces) may still be afforded legal protections if this amount is "related to meet (the patient's) current medical needs."

The Court determined: "Whether or not a person entitled to register under the [2004 state law] elects to do so, that individual, so long as he or she meets the definition of a patient or primary caregiver under the CUA (Compassionate Use Act of 1996), retains all the rights afforded by the CUA. Thus, such a person may assert, as a defense in court, that he or she possessed or cultivated an amount of marijuana reasonably related to meet his or her current medical needs ... without reference to the specific quantitative limitations specified by the [2004 state law.]"

NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano praised the court's decision. "This ruling upholds the will of California's voters," he said. "In short, this decision affirms that California patients have a legal right to possess and use marijuana as a medicine in the way that is in best accordance with their therapeutic treatment, as decided by the court, consulting all of the evidence – not by state or local legislators."

For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, Esq., NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500, or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.

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## Marijuana Compounds Possess Synergistic Anti-Cancer Effects, Study Says

**San Francisco, CA, USA:** Marijuana's active compounds act synergistically to inhibit the growth of cancer cells and induce malignant cell death, according to preclinical trial data published online by the journal *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*.

Investigators at the University of California, Pacific Medical Center Research Institute assessed whether the administration of the

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<continued from previous page> non-psychoactive cannabidiol would enhance the anti-cancer effects of THC on glioblastoma (brain cancer) cells.

Researchers reported that a combination of cannabinoids showed greater anti-cancer activity than the administration of either compound individually. "We discovered that cannabidiol enhanced the ability of THC to inhibit cell proliferation and induce cell cycle arrest and apoptosis (programmed cell death)," authors reported.

Investigators concluded: "Individually, THC and cannabidiol can activate distinct pathways in glioblastoma cells that ultimately culminate in inhibition of cancer cell growth and invasion as well as induction of cell death. We hypothesized that, if the individual agents were combined, a convergence on shared pathways may ensue, leading to an enhanced ability of the combination treatment to inhibit certain cancer cell phenotypes. We found this to be true in this investigation."

A 2008 scientific review published in the journal *Cancer Research* reported that the cannabinoids inhibit cell proliferation in a wide range of cancers, including brain cancer, prostate cancer, breast cancer, lung cancer, skin cancer, pancreatic cancer, and lymphoma.

*For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Cannabidiol enhances the inhibitory effects of Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol on human glioblastoma cell proliferation and survival," appears online in the journal Molecular Cancer Therapeutics.*

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## **New Jersey Legislature Authorizes Medical Use Of Marijuana**

**Trenton, NJ, USA:** Lawmakers in the House and Senate overwhelmingly approved legislation this week (1/14/10) that seeks to make New Jersey the fourteenth state in the nation to allow for the state-authorized use of medical cannabis by qualified patients. The

measure, known as the New Jersey Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act, now awaits action from outgoing Gov. Jon Corzine – who has pledged to sign the measure into law early next week.

The Act authorizes patients with a physician's recommendation to possess and obtain medical cannabis from state-authorized "alternative treatment centers." Patients diagnosed with the following conditions are eligible to use medical cannabis under the Act: cancer, glaucoma, seizure and/or spasticity disorders (including epilepsy), Lou Gehrig's disease, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, HIV/AIDS, inflammatory bowel disease (including Crohn's disease), any terminal illness if a doctor has determined the patient will die within a year, and/or any other medical condition or treatment that is approved by the state health department.

Unlike the medical marijuana laws that have been enacted in thirteen other states, authorized patients in New Jersey will not be eligible to legally grow their own cannabis.

Said NORML New Jersey Executive Director Chris Goldstein: "Patients have been waiting since 2005 for medical marijuana legislation. Yes it passed with some major compromises, such as the removal of home cultivation. But this bill also looks forward to the future of medical cannabis by regulating the most comprehensive single-site marijuana production facilities outside the federal government's marijuana greenhouse at the University of Mississippi."

He concluded: "While much more restrictive than other states, this measure also strengthens the legal legitimacy of marijuana as a medicine. We are confident that registered patients in New Jersey will have safe and affordable access to locally produced, medical grade cannabis by the end of 2010."

The New Jersey Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act will take effect six-months after the Governor signs the bill into law.

*For more information, please visit: <http://www.normlnj.org>.*



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

## **New Jersey Becomes Fourteenth State To Legalize Medical Marijuana Use**

**Trenton, NJ, USA:** Outgoing governor Jon Corzine signed legislation on Monday (1/18/10) making New Jersey the fourteenth state in the nation to allow for the state-authorized use of medical cannabis by qualified patients. The new law takes effect in six months.

The measure, known as the New Jersey Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act, authorizes patients with a physician's recommendation to possess and obtain medical cannabis from state-authorized "alternative treatment centers."

Unlike the medical marijuana laws that have been enacted in thirteen other states, authorized patients in New Jersey will not be eligible to legally grow their own cannabis.

According to a nationwide ABC News/*Washington Post* poll released this week, 81 percent of Americans support legalizing marijuana for medicinal purposes, and 56 percent contend that a physician should be able to authorize the drug's use to "anyone they think it can help." Over 1,000 adults participated in the telephone poll, which was conducted between January 12 and January 15, 2010.

*For more information, please visit:*

*<http://www.normlnj.org> or*

*[http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=3391](http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=3391).*

**\* 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>

**for more on W-V-NORML,  
meetings and cannabis law  
reform in general. For great  
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