



## Nearly One Out Of Two Americans Back Legalizing Pot, Says Latest Pew Research Poll

Washington, DC, USA:

Americans' support for legalizing the adult use of marijuana has risen from 16 percent

approval in 1990 to 45 percent today – according to the latest Pew Research [poll](#), released last week.

Support rose four percent in the last year, pollsters reported.

More men than women (48 percent to 42 percent) [backed legalization](#), as did more Democrats (53 percent) than Republicans (30 percent). Younger voters (age 18 to 29) were most likely to say that they support legalizing cannabis (54 percent), while only 30 percent of those age 65 or older supported the position.

Fifty percent of respondents said that they opposed legalizing marijuana – the lowest level of opposition support ever reported by the poll.

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### Cannabis Significantly Reduces Pain In Randomized Trials, Study Says

Toronto, Ontario, Canada:

Cannabis inhalation and the administration of cannabinoids are both associated with "significant analgesic effects" in the treatment of chronic non-cancer pain, according to a systemic [review](#) of randomized controlled trials to be published in the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*.

Investigators from the University of Toronto, Hospital for Sick Children, conducted a literature review regarding the efficacy of cannabinoids in the treatment of [chronic pain](#), including [neuropathic pain](#), [fibromyalgia](#), [rheumatoid arthritis](#), and mixed chronic pain. Eighteen randomized controlled trials published between 2003 and 2010 involving a total of 766 participants met inclusion criteria. Four of the trials assessed inhaled cannabis, while other studies assessed the analgesic properties of either plant-derived cannabinoids or

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### New York City: Prosecuting Near-Record Pot Arrests Costs City \$75 Million Annually

New York, NY, USA:

Criminal justice expenses pertaining to the arrest and prosecution of minor marijuana offenders in New York City cost taxpayers some \$75 million a year, according to a [report](#) published last week by the [Drug Policy Alliance](#) (DPA), a national drug policy think tank.

The report, authored by Queens College sociologist Harry Levine and Loren Siegel, an attorney formerly with the American Civil Liberties Union, estimates that the criminal justice costs in New York city associated with a single arrest for marijuana possession, including all police and court expenses, is between \$1,000 and \$2,000.

In 2010, New York city police [made 50,383 lowest level marijuana possession arrests](#)

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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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**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 POLL, page 1 > The findings are strikingly similar to those [reported last fall by Gallup](#), which found that an all-time high of 46 percent of Americans support legalizing marijuana, and an all-time low of 50 percent oppose the idea. For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202 483-5500) or visit: <http://peoplepress.org/report/?pageid=1920>.

<continued from PAIN, page 1 > synthetic cannabinoids.

"Overall the quality of trials was excellent," authors wrote. "Fifteen of the eighteen trials that met inclusion criteria demonstrated a significant analgesic effect of cannabinoid as compared to placebo, several reported significant improvements in sleep. There were no serious adverse effects."

Researchers noted that [all four trials](#) involving inhaled cannabis "found a positive effect with no serious adverse side effects." They added: "Of special importance is the fact that two of the trials examining smoked cannabis demonstrated a significant analgesic effect in HIV neuropathy, a type of pain that has been notoriously resistant to other treatments normally used for neuropathic pain. In the trial examining cannabis based medicines in rheumatoid arthritis a significant reduction in disease activity was also noted, this is consistent with pre-clinical work demonstrating that cannabinoids are anti-inflammatory."

Investigators concluded, "[C]annabinoids are a modestly effective and safe treatment option for chronic non-cancer (predominantly neuropathic) pain. Given the prevalence of chronic pain, its impact on function and the paucity of effective therapeutic interventions, additional treatment options are urgently needed. More large-scale trials of longer duration reporting on pain and level of function are required." For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study, "Cannabinoids for treatment of chronic non-cancer pain; a systemic review of randomized trials," will appear in the *British Journal of Pharmacology*.

<continued from NEW YORK, page 1 > [NY State Penal Law 221.10] involving cases where marijuana was

either used or possessed in public. The total is the second highest in the city's history and is an increase of over 5,000 percent from 1990, when police reported fewer than 1,000 low-level pot arrests.

The DPA report [states](#) that during Michael Bloomberg's tenure as mayor, from 2002 through 2010, the NYPD made nearly 350,000 arrests for marijuana possession – costing taxpayers \$350 million to \$700 million.

Although simple marijuana possession is a [violation and not a crime](#) in New York State, if the marijuana is "open to public view" it can be charged as a misdemeanor.

"More people have been arrested for marijuana possession under Mayor Bloomberg than under Mayors Koch, Dinkins, and Guiliani combined," said the report's co-author, Harry Levine. "These arrests are wildly expensive, do not improve public safety, and create permanent criminal records which seriously damage the life chances of the young people targeted and jailed."

Added Gabriel Sayegh, New York State Director for the Drug Policy Alliance: "It is beyond hypocritical for the Mayor, who once said he smoked marijuana and enjoyed it, to make arresting young people of color for marijuana possession his top law enforcement priority," said. "While cutting services for seniors, youth, housing, transportation, teachers, education, and more, the Mayor spent 75 million dollars last year to arrest over 50,000 people for marijuana possession – which isn't even a crime under New York State law. It's just outrageous." For more information, please visit: <http://www.drugpolicy.org>.



## National Institutes Of Cancer Website Recognizes Cancer-Killing Properties Of Cannabinoids

**Bethesda, MD, USA:** The website of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), a component of the United States National Institutes of Health (NIH), has acknowledged the cancer-fighting properties of marijuana's active components, but stopped short of recognizing that oncologists may recommend cannabis as an anti-proliferative treatment therapy.

The agency last week added a new section to its cancer.gov website to address the issue of marijuana and cancer. The section, entitled

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<continued from previous page> ['Cannabis and Cannabinoids](#) (PDQ),' provides "an overview of the use of *cannabis* and its components as a treatment for people with cancer-related symptoms caused by the disease itself or its treatment."

The website [states](#) that preclinical trials have shown that marijuana's active compounds may selectively target and inhibit cancer cell growth. "Cannabinoids may cause antitumor effects by various mechanisms, including induction of cell death, inhibition of cell growth, and inhibition of tumor angiogenesis and metastasis," the site reads. "Cannabinoids appear to kill tumor cells but do not affect their non-transformed counterparts and may even protect them from cell death."

The site [further states](#): "The potential benefits of medicinal *Cannabis* for people living with cancer include antiemetic effects, appetite stimulation, pain relief, and improved sleep."

However, [previous language](#) included in this section of the website stating, "In the practice of integrative oncology, the health care provider may recommend medicinal *Cannabis* not only for symptom management but also for its possible direct antitumor effect" [was removed](#) by site administrators on Monday, March 28.

That portion of the website [has been modified](#) to now read, "Though no relevant surveys of practice patterns exist, it appears that physicians caring for cancer patients who prescribe medicinal *Cannabis* predominantly do so for symptom management." New language added to the page further states, "The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved the use of *Cannabis* as a treatment for any medical condition." The NCI amended its language after several media outlets reported that their initial assessment ["could have an impact on the classification](#) of marijuana as a schedule I drug." Under federal law, cannabis is defined as a schedule I controlled substance with no recognized medical utility.

In a [prepared statement](#), the NCI stated that its online material should not be viewed as "treatment recommendations and are not representative of any federal policy." The agency added, "In light of the attention garnered by the PDQ summary statement on 'Cannabis and Cannabinoids,' reviewers ... reexamined the recently posted statement and decided to change the wording, in order to clarify the meaning that the Board originally intended to convey and to correct several possible misinterpretations."

For several decades, preclinical studies

[have documented](#) the anti-cancer activity of cannabinoids and endocannabinoids in various types of cancerous cells, including breast carcinoma, prostate cancer, colorectal carcinoma, skin carcinoma, lung carcinoma, oral cancer, and lymphoma.

United State's researchers initially documented the anti-tumor effects of cannabinoids in a 1975 study [published](#) in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). NORML's literature review of *cannabis*' anti-cancer properties is available online at: [http://www.norml.org//index.cfm?Group\\_ID=7002](http://www.norml.org//index.cfm?Group_ID=7002).

### **New Jersey: Health Regulators Approve Marijuana Dispensary Applicants**

**Trenton, NJ, USA:** State health regulators on Monday [selected](#) six applicants to grow and dispense cannabis in accordance with the state's nascent medical law. Twenty-one separate applicants had applied for the state's six available licenses.

[Signed](#) into law in January 2010 by former Gov. Jon Corzine, 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."

However, [draft rules](#) proposed by the state Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) in 2010 to govern the yet-to-be established program have been [criticized](#) by several state lawmakers as unduly restrictive. Lawmakers have held [hearings](#) but have yet to vote on whether or not to repeal the regulations.

Commenting on the applicants' approval, Ken Wolski the executive director of [The Coalition for Medical Marijuana – New Jersey](#) (CMMNJ) [said](#), "We certainly wish the successful applicants luck because patients need legal marijuana as soon as possible. However, we have serious doubts that these non-profit organizations will be able to develop a working program with the overly restrictive regulations proposed by DHSS. CMMNJ still supports the legislative Resolution to invalidate significant parts of the DHSS regulations." For more information, please visit: <http://www.cmmnj.org/>.

## Marijuana Inhalation Associated With Spontaneous Tumor Regression, Study Says

**Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada:** Cannabis inhalation is associated with spontaneous brain tumor regression in two subjects, according to a pair of [case reports](#) to be published in *Child's Nervous System*, the official journal of the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery.



Investigators at the British Columbia Children's Hospital in Vancouver [documented](#) the mitigation of residual tumors in two adolescent subjects who regularly inhaled cannabis. Authors determined that both subjects experienced a "clear regression" of their residual brain tumors over a three-year-period.

"Neither patient received any conventional adjuvant treatment" during this time period, investigators wrote. "The tumors regressed over the same period of time that cannabis was consumed via inhalation, raising the possibility that cannabis played a role in tumor regression."

Researchers concluded, "Further research may be appropriate to elucidate the increasingly recognized effect of cannabis/cannabinoids on gliomas (brain cancers)."

A 2006 [pilot study](#) published in the *British Journal of Cancer* previously reported that the intratumoral administration of the cannabinoid THC was associated with reduced tumor cell proliferation in two of nine human subjects with brain cancer.

Separate [preclinical studies](#) assessing the anti-cancer activity of cannabinoids and endocannabinoids indicate that the substances can inhibit the proliferation of various types of cancerous cells, including [breast carcinoma](#), [prostate carcinoma](#), and [lung cancer](#).

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study, "Spontaneous regression of septum pellucidum/forniceal pilocytic astrocytomas – possible role of cannabis inhalation," will appear in the journal *Child's Nervous System*.

## Rhode Island: Health Regulators Select Applicants To Operate State-Licensed Medical Marijuana Facilities

**Providence, RI, USA:** Representatives of the state Department of Health on Tuesday [selected](#) applicants to operate three separate medical marijuana dispensaries.

Rhode Island lawmakers in 2009 voted [102 to 3](#) in favor of allowing the state to license a limited number of medical marijuana facilities. The lopsided vote overrode a veto by the former governor, Republican Donald Carcieri.

The selected applicants have proposed establishing medical cannabis dispensaries in the cities of Portsmouth, Providence, and Warwick.

"After a thorough and thoughtful review of all applications, [we] determined that these three applicants were best able to offer safe, conveniently located options for patients currently enrolled in the medical marijuana program," interim Director of Health Michael Fine said in a prepared statement. "We will continue to work with the compassion centers and providers to assure good outcomes for patients."

Approximately 3,300 patients are qualified to use marijuana legally in the state.

To date, only [Colorado](#) and [New Mexico](#) have established state-licensed medical cannabis dispensaries. Regulators in [Arizona](#), [Maine](#), and [Washington, DC](#) are in the process of licensing such establishments. For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202 483-5500) or visit: <http://ripatients.org>.

## New Hampshire: House Passes Measure For State-Regulated Medical Marijuana

**Concord, NH, USA:** House lawmakers on Tuesday [decided](#) 221 to 96 in favor of legislation, [HB 442](#), that seeks to allow for the state to license facilities to produce and distribute marijuana to qualified patients.

The proposal now moves to the Senate. Lawmakers in House and Senate approved similar legislation in 2009, but it was [vetoed](#) by Democrat Gov. John Lynch. For more information, please visit: <http://nhcompassion.org>, or visit NORML's 'Take Action Center' here: <http://www.capwiz.com/norml2/issues/alert/?alertid=26741501>.

## Medical Marijuana Repeal Efforts Stall In New Mexico, Montana

**Santa Fe, NM, USA:** A New Mexico lawmaker has [withdrawn](#) legislation that sought to repeal the state's four-year-old [medical marijuana law](#). Newly elected Republican Gov. Susana Martinez said that she [would have signed](#) the measure, [House Bill 593](#), had it reached her desk.

The bill's sponsor, Republican Rep. [James Smith](#), is now proposing a [House Memorial bill](#) that calls on lawmakers to study the state's medical cannabis program.

Presently, over 3,200 patients are using cannabis legally in compliance with state law. In addition, state officials have [licensed](#) some 25 facilities to produce or dispense medical cannabis. To date, reports of abuses regarding the use or distribution of medical cannabis as authorized by the law have been minimal.

In Montana, members of the Senate Judicial Committee on Monday [deadlocked](#) 6 to 6 regarding a similar measure, House Bill 161, which sought to [repeal](#) that state's six-year-old, voter-approved [medical marijuana law](#). House representatives had previously voted, largely along party lines, [63 to 37](#) in favor of the repeal measure.

Senators may still elect to reconsider the measure, or they may call for a 'blast motion,' which is a procedure that allows measures to bypass committee and be debated by the full chamber.

According to a Public Policy Polling [survey](#) last month of 2,212 Montanans, 63 percent of respondents "support allowing patients ... to have the freedom to use marijuana for medical purposes with their doctors' approval." Only 20 percent of respondents said that the law should be "repealed entirely."

Also on Monday, federal law enforcement officials [raided](#) several Montana medical marijuana greenhouses and dispensary providers. Law enforcement officers confiscated various items of property, including marijuana, cash, and growing equipment, but [failed to make any immediate arrests](#). The raids marked the first large-scale federal [crackdown](#) in the state since voters approved Montana's medical marijuana law via initiative in 2004.

New Mexico and Montana are among the [15 states](#) that presently recognize the physician-supervised use of cannabis. To date, no legislature has repealed such a law. *For more information, please contact*

*Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500) or visit: <http://montananorml.org>.*

## Los Angeles: Voters Approve Marijuana Tax Revenue Measure

**Los Angeles, CA, USA:** Some 60 percent of Los Angeles voters [decided](#) on Tuesday in favor of Measure M, a citywide ballot measure that imposes new taxes on the sales of medical marijuana at brick-and-mortar dispensaries.

Measure M allows city tax officials to collect 50 dollars out of each \$1,000 in "gross reimbursements" that dispensaries receive from their clients.

The advocacy group Americans for Safe Access [opposed](#) the measure, arguing that it "threatens to increase the cost of an already expensive treatment for many medical marijuana patients in the city." [California NORML](#) was neutral on Measure M.

Municipal voters have approved [similar local tax ordinances](#) in other California cities, including Oakland, Sacramento, and San Jose.

On Wednesday, the Los Angeles city attorney's office [released a list](#) of 141 medical marijuana dispensaries that it has warned must shut down immediately or face legal action. City officials have claimed that they are operating in violation of a newly passed citywide ordinance that aims to cap the total number of dispensaries at no more than a hundred.

*For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500, or visit: <http://www.canorml.org>.*

## Kentucky: Lawmakers Pass Sweeping Sentencing Reform Measure, Reduce Pot Penalties

**Frankfort, KY, USA:** Democrat Gov. Steve Beshear [signed legislation](#) into law last week that seeks to reduce the number of incarcerated nonviolent drug offenders.

The bipartisan measure, [House Bill 463](#), provides treatment-instead-of-incarceration options for defendants found guilty of possessing controlled substances. Supporters of the sentencing reform measure argue that the changes could reap [\\$422 million](#) in gross savings over the next decade. Specific to marijuana law enforcement, the

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<continued from previous page> measure reduces existing penalties regarding the adult possession of up to eight ounces of cannabis from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class B misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum of up to 45 days in jail. (Under [present law](#), the offense is punishable by up to one-year in jail.) However, barring extenuating circumstances, most minor marijuana offenders will face [probation in lieu of incarceration](#) under the provisions of the new law.

"This overhaul of Kentucky's penal code is the result of a multi-year effort involving members of the executive, legislative and judicial branches," said Gov. Beshear said in a [prepared statement](#). "Over the last three years, we've made headway with aggressive efforts to bring common sense to Kentucky's penal code, and our prison population has dropped each of the past three years. House Bill 463 helps us be tough on crime, while being smart on crime."

*For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500, or visit the website of the NORML Legal Committee, Kentucky at: [http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?wtm\\_view=legal&Group\\_ID=4539](http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?wtm_view=legal&Group_ID=4539).*

## Hawaii: Senate Passes Multiple Marijuana Reform Measures

**Honolulu, HI, USA:** Senate lawmakers this week approved a series of legislative proposals aimed at amending the state's marijuana laws.

Legislators [unanimously approved SB 1460](#), which reduces the adult possession of up to one ounce of marijuana from a [criminal misdemeanor](#) (punishable by up to 30 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine) to a [civil violation](#) punishable by a fine of not more than \$100.

Regarding the medical use of marijuana, the Senate approved [SB 1458](#), which allows for the state licensed production and distribution of medical cannabis and cannabis-infused therapeutic products. Senators also passed [SB 58](#), which increases the quantity of marijuana that authorized patients may legally possess under state law. Two other related measures, [SB 175](#) and [SB 113](#), also met with Senate approval.

All five measures now go before House lawmakers.

Last year, Senate lawmakers [approved](#) several similar proposals – all of which eventually stalled in

the House. *For more information on these measures, please visit NORML's 'Take Action Center' at: <http://www.capwiz.com/norml2/issues/>.*

## Drug Czar To Meet With Seattle Times Editors After They Opine In Favor Of Legalizing Marijuana

Seattle, WA, USA: Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske is flying from Washington, DC to Seattle on Friday to meet with the editorial board of The Seattle Times. Kerlikowske arranged for the meeting immediately after the paper opined in favor of state legislation, HB 1550, that seeks to regulate the "production, distribution, and sale" of marijuana to adults.

In an unsigned editorial published on February 18th, the paper's editors stated: "Marijuana should be legalized, regulated and taxed. The push to repeal federal prohibition should come from the states, and it should begin with the state of Washington."

They added: "Some drugs have such horrible effects on the human body that the costs of prohibition may be worth it. Not marijuana. This state's experience with medical marijuana and Seattle's tolerance policy suggest that with cannabis, legalization will work – and surprisingly well. Not only will it work, but it is coming."

Following the publication of the editorial, Kerlikowske contacted the newspaper and requested Friday's meeting. Speaking to the Seattle alt-weekly newspaper The Stranger, Bruce Ramsey, The Seattle Times editorial writer who authored the uncredited opinion piece, said the White House called "right after our editorial ran, so I drew the obvious conclusion... he didn't like our editorial."

Kerlikowske is the former police chief of Seattle.

In a separate commentary published by The Seattle Times on February 25th, editorial page editor Ryan Blethen said the public's reaction to the paper's pot-friendly position was overwhelming. "It is rare we publish an editorial on a hot topic and receive near universal praise," he wrote. "But that is what happened last week when we came out in support of Washington state legalizing cannabis."

Additional information regarding House Bill 1550 is available from NORML's 'Take Action Center' here: <http://www.capwiz.com/norml2/issues/alert/?alertid=24023501> or on Facebook here: [http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_143495259045041](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_143495259045041) .



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

### DEA Criminalizes Synthetic Marijuana Products Sold Over The Counter - New Ban Treats 'Fake Pot' Products Like Heroin Under Federal Law

Washington, DC, USA: The United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) this week exercised its 'emergency scheduling authority' to criminally prohibit the possession and sale of chemical agents contained in so-called 'fake' herbal marijuana products, commonly sold over the counter under the brand names 'K2' and 'Spice.' The agency had initially announced its intent to outlaw the chemicals last November. The specific compounds prohibited under the new DEA ban are: JWH-018, JWH-073, JWH-200, CP-47,497, and cannabicyclohexanol. Each of these compounds is now placed in the same category as heroin under federal law.

"Except as authorized by law, this action makes possessing and selling these chemicals or the products that contain them illegal in the United States," the DEA stated Tuesday in a press release. "This emergency action was necessary to prevent an imminent threat to public health and safety."

The agency says that the federal ban will remain in effect for at least one year while the DEA and the United States Department of Health and Human Services "further study whether these chemicals should be permanently controlled."

The chemicals in question are synthetic cannabinoid agonists, which are added to otherwise inert herbal products. Once ingested, they interact with endogenous cannabinoid receptors to elicit certain physical and euphoric responses that are similar to some of the effects of marijuana. Commenting on the new ban, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said:

"The popularity of these products is a predictable outgrowth of criminal marijuana prohibition. As prohibition is apt to do, it has driven the production of a commodity into the hands of unregulated, unknown dealers, and artificially driven up the potency of the commodity - thus exponentially increasing the potential health risks to the consumer." *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at (202) 483-5500, or at: paul@norml.org.*

**\* NOTE!** The Willamette Valley NORML Member meeting happens **every 2nd Sat. of the month** and will be at The Voter Power Office. For more info on meeting visit: <http://w-v-norml.org/Members/meeting.html>



The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting happens (most!) **every 4th Sat. of the month** (Excepting Holidays - Nov., Dec. - when it takes place 3rd Sat.!) and will also be at The Voter Power Office at **687 River Av, Eugene, Oregon** \* For more info on meeting call: **541.517-0957** -or- visit: <http://w-v-norml.org/meeting.html>

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