



NORML Argues State Prosecutors Can't Justify Police Searches Based on Smell

Published by: [Norml Blog Feed](#) | NORML filed an "[amicus curiae](#)" [brief](#) with the state supreme appellate court on Friday, November 22, urging the court to enforce the limits on police searches set by 2008's voter-initiative state decriminalization law, which eliminating police searches and arrests for possession of small amounts of marijuana. Attorneys [Michael Cutler](#) of Northampton and [Steven Epstein](#) of Georgetown authored the brief.

In this case a Boston judge initially ruled a 2011 police search — based entirely on the smell of unburnt marijuana — violated the "decriminalization" law which made possession of an ounce or less of marijuana a civil infraction subject only to a fine, thereby ending police authority to search or arrest the possessor. The state appealed.

Earlier in 2011 the state supreme court ruled, in a case in which NORML also filed an amicus brief, that police searches based only on the odor of burnt marijuana were now illegal. The court reasoned that smell alone did not establish probable cause to believe a criminal amount (more than an ounce) was present, so police had no power to search or arrest. NORML asks the court to reject

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Autistic Teen Tricked into Buying Weed for Undercover Cop

Published by: [Norml Blog Feed](#) | In late 2012, a Riverside County, California police officer infiltrated a local high school, befriended a vulnerable, special needs student and then proceeded to send more than 60 text messages begging the student to buy him weed. The student, who had been diagnosed with autism as well as bipolar disorder, Tourettes, and several anxiety disorders (and noticeably handicapped) became overwhelmed by the pressure, and the desire to keep his only friend.

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Denver City Council Seeks to Restrict The Number of Marijuana Plants Per Household

After having her last regressive idea, [the banning of outdoor marijuana consumption on private property](#), killed like a rabid dog — Jeannie Robb is at it again. [According to Forbes.com](#), the Denver city Council, which on Monday shot down the idea of trying to stop people from **smoking weed on their own private property** -

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Oregon Group Works on Rules for Industrial Hemp

Oregon farmers could put in a crop of industrial hemp next spring if a panel of experts can satisfy federal officials with a set of tightly drawn rules. The committee of agricultural experts and state policy officials has been selected by the Oregon Department of Agriculture and will come together in December, the Oregonian reported.

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Courts, US Public at Odds Over Worker Firings

Colorado -- A worker in Colorado who undergoes a random drug test is found to test positive for marijuana use, but in less than a month pot-smoking will legal in there. Can a company with a zero-tolerance policy for illegal drug use still fire that worker, or should it instead adjust its policy on employee drug use? That's just one of many questions that employers in both Colorado and the state of

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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**

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 ARGUES STATE PROSECUTORS CAN'T JUSTIFY POLICE SEARCHES BASED ON SMELL**, page 1 > the Boston prosecutor's claim that federal prohibition — which allows arrest and imprisonment for any amount of cannabis under federal law — trumps the state decriminalization law and allows police to ignore state law and use evidence from smell-based searches in state courts.

NORML argues that state prosecutors and police must obey state law and state appellate court rulings under the state constitution's separation of powers doctrine, requiring the executive branch to obey the legislative branch's laws and the judicial branch's limits on police conduct under state law and the state's constitution.

Finally, NORML argues that the state prosecutor's position violates fundamental principles of Federalism, which limit federal "preemption" of state law only where state law "positively conflicts" with federal law. Since the August 2013 federal Justice Department Guidance memo to federal prosecutors nationwide, recommending no interference with state laws legalizing marijuana in a responsible manner, no such conflict exists between federal and state authority.

Oral argument in the case of *Commonwealth v. Craan* is scheduled for early February, with a decision possible by June 2014. See more at: <http://medicalmarijuana.com/medical-marijuana-news/title.cfm?artId=1060#sthash.TzS2yOR9.dpuf>

<continued from **AUTISTIC TEEN TRICKED INTO BUYING WEED FOR UNDERCOVER COP**, page 1 > He finally agreed to buy pot for "Dan" (the undercover cop). It took the teenager weeks to find anything, eventually buying half of a joint from from a homeless man downtown.

Then, as reported by [Reason Magazine](#), "On December 11, 2012 armed police officers walked into [the student's] classroom and arrested him in front of his peers. He was taken to the juvenile detention center, along with the 21 other arrestees, where he was kept for 48 hours. First hand reports claim that the juvenile center was caught off guard by the large number of arrests and that some youths had to sleep on the floor, using toilet paper as pillows." The child was also expelled from school.

This story is a [grotesque example](#) of how our nation's marijuana policies continue to encourage the use of barbaric and predatory tactics by law enforcement officials. They are [financially incentivised](#) to not only target otherwise law abiding citizens, but actively work to manipulate innocent

children. Aside from the [gross misappropriation](#) of limited police resources, this incident clearly highlights many of the tragic implications marijuana prohibition continues to have on our nation's youth. Further, zero tolerance policies in schools have proven to be ineffective in the very purpose for which they were originally designed. The practice of engaging in high school undercover drug stings has proven to do [nothing to curb teen drug use](#).

It does however, leave the student body traumatized and resentful of law enforcement, making them less likely to report legitimate crimes in the future. It is an [egregiously unfair and punitive practice](#) by educational institutions to expel students as punishment for any infraction of a rule, a significant portion of which are for non-violent low level drug violations. How does removing a minor from what is intended to be a stable, nurturing environment do anything to help prepare these individuals to lead responsible productive lives? They are now forced to sit at home with nothing to do but hang out with other expelled peers, or in a juvenile detention center.

One can argue that this all leads back to the [financial incentives](#) driving police officers to arrest as many individuals on drug charges as possible. Every year, law enforcement jurisdictions are given federal grants, swat gear, overtime pay and assets based solely on their number of drug arrests. Perhaps it is a result of former Governor Schwarzenegger's passage of SB 1449 in 2010, which reduced the crime of possession of an ounce of pot from a misdemeanor to an infraction for adults 18 and over. Now, the only way to keep up their arrest rates is by targeting minors — whose charges remain misdemeanors. It is time to stop the madness and put an [end to these insane zero-tolerance policies](#). Our children's future depends on it.

**The family of the student framed by an undercover officer have set up a fundraiser to support their lawsuit against the school district. Click [here](#) for more information. See more on the story at: <http://medicalmarijuana.com/medical-marijuana-news/title.cfm?artId=1039#sthash.e1nbSITY.dpuf>

<continued from **DENVER CITY COUNCIL SEEKS TO RESTRICT THE NUMBER OF MARIJUANA PLANTS PER HOUSEHOLD**, page 1 > — regardless of how visible it is by the public — is now **germinating limits on home cultivation**. Her newest idea is a slap in the face to all who voted for amendment 64, by

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<continued from previous page> **capping the number of marijuana plants that can be cultivated at any household to 12** – despite the number of adults which may reside there.

Conversely, Amendment 64 permits all state residents over the age of 21 to cultivate up to six cannabis plants, “notwithstanding any other provision of law.” It clearly states that doing so “shall not be an offense under Colorado law or the law of any locality,” provided “the growing takes place in an enclosed, lock space, is not conducted openly or publicly, and is not made available for sale.” As Amendment 64 was passed and is now part of Colorado’s state Constitution, it seems unlikely Rob’s brain-dead proposal would hold up in a court of law.

Regurgitating the mindless *new aged reefer madness*, Rob’s recent epiphany for a 12-plant-per-household limit, are the same tired talking points spewed by the anti-marijuana group, [Smart Colorado](#), which seems pretty dumb.

“The police are very worried about the homegrows and the problems they could cause,” she told the Denver Post. Specifically, she claims to be worried about “fires, pesticide use, the mold, structural damage, children who might be living in these areas, **and THC on surface areas.**”

Wait...what – THC on surface areas?

She seems to have the idea that marijuana is equivalent to crystal meth – well, it’s not. Regardless of what Smart Colorado, or the highly educated councilwoman understands about the cultivation process, THC is a sticky, resinous substance that is not vomited back into the environment, polluting all around it.

More concisely, any supposed safety concerns Ms. Robb might have about growing 12 plants, would equally apply to 15, or 20 pot plants. Whatever the real issues that may exist can be handled without capriciously contradicting Colorado voters or their new constitutional freedoms. **SOURCE >>**

<http://www.marijuana.com/news/2013/12/denver-city-council-seeks-to-restrict-the-number-of-marijuana-plants-per-household/>

<continued from **OREGON GROUP WORKS ON RULES FOR INDUSTRIAL HEMP, page 1** > The committee hopes to set up a program that will meet what the federal government calls a “robust” standard, said Jim Cramer, a market and certification official in the

department. He said the goal is to do so in time for planting. Oregon is one of seven states with laws permitting industrial hemp – a strain of marijuana with only a trace of the plant’s psychoactive chemical.

Hemp’s historic use has been for rope. These days it is put to hundreds of uses: clothing and mulch from the fiber, for instance, and foods such as hemp milk and cooking oil from the seeds, as well as creams, soap and lotions.

Oregon officials have held off implementing the state’s 2009 law, saying they would wait until the federal government reclassified marijuana from a substance prone to abuse and lacking medicinal value.

That has not happened, but an opinion issued in late August explained the federal government’s decision against challenging recreational marijuana laws in Washington and Colorado. The memo set priorities on marijuana and said a “robust” system for enforcing state marijuana laws is less likely to threaten federal priorities.

Cramer said his department sought written confirmation from the federal government that it would not oppose an industrial hemp program in Oregon, but it hasn’t gotten a formal response.

“What we want is for the federal government to say these are robust,” he said of the rules the group is drafting.

He said the committee is researching industrial hemp rules in Colorado, North Dakota and Canada. He said Oregon’s rules will cover fees, hemp processing and testing that ensures the level of the plant’s psychoactive chemical, tetrahydrocannabinol, is less than 0.3 percent. >>

Source:

<http://www.cannabisnews.org/oregon-group-works-on-rules-for-industrial-hemp/2013/11/09/>

<continued from **COURTS, US PUBLIC AT ODDS OVER WORKER FIRINGS, page 1** > Washington are wrestling with as they adjust to new marijuana laws, which as of Jan. 1 will permit individuals to buy and possess up to an ounce of pot.

The issues to consider are legion: How much discretion do firms have over how to handle workers who smoke pot in their nonwork hours? Can some kinds of workers (officers of the law, public transit drivers, school teachers) be held to a

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<continued from previous page> stricter standard than others? And perhaps most germane, when does federal law, which still outlaws marijuana possession and use, trump state law?

That last point is beginning to be resolved in the courts, and so far it's coming down on the side of the preeminence of federal law. As Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper famously quipped last November, even as the vote tallies showed the measure to legalize recreational marijuana would be approved: "Federal law still says marijuana is an illegal drug, so don't break out the Cheetos or Goldfish too quickly."

"Employers big and small across the state are really struggling with these questions," says Danielle Durban, a Denver-based employment attorney at Fisher & Phillips LLP. "They have to come up with testing protocols that don't alienate their own employees but cover themselves from liability, as well," she says. "Most are wishing legislators had given them more direction." **Source: Christian Science Monitor** >
<http://cannabisnews.com/news/27/thread27741.shtml>

Maine: Nearly 70 Percent Of Portland Voters Approve Ballot Measure To Eliminate Local Pot Penalties

Portland, ME: Voters in Maine's largest city overwhelmingly [decided](#) in favor of a municipal measure eliminating local penalties for the possession of marijuana by adults.



An estimated 67 percent of Portland voters decided Tuesday in favor of a citywide ballot initiative, Question 1, eliminating penalties for adults who possess up to 2.5 ounces of cannabis and/or cannabis paraphernalia within city limits. Public consumption of the substance remains a punishable offense.

Under state [law](#), the possession of 2.5 ounces of marijuana or less is classified as a civil offense punishable by a fine of up to \$600. Maine Rep. Diane Russell (D-Portland) [called](#) the vote result "a victory for science, for common sense and for liberty."

Representative Russell championed legislation this past spring that sought to legalize cannabis production, use, and retail sales statewide. That

measure fell [four votes shy](#) of House passage. "[W]ith [Tuesday's] vote, it's now clear Mainers are ready to move forward with responsibly regulating all adult marijuana sales," she said. "We are calling on city officials to respect the will of the voters, and state leaders to get ahead of this issue with a Maine approach to taxing and regulating this commodity, much like we do alcohol. It's time to stop rewarding drug cartels and start rewarding responsible business owners, while funding important state priorities with new tax revenue."

Representative Russell has prefiled similar legislation for 2014. *For more information, please contact Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Director, at (202) 483-5500.*

Michigan: Three Cities Vote To Depenalize Marijuana Possession

Lansing, MI: Voters in the city of Lansing (population 114,000) [decided](#) in favor of a municipal initiative amending the city charter to repeal criminal and civil penalties involving the adult possession of cannabis by adults on private property.



An estimated 63 percent of city voters on Tuesday endorsed the measure, which read, "Shall the Charter of the City of Lansing, Michigan be amended such that nothing in the Code of Ordinances shall apply to the use, possession or transfer of less than 1 ounce of marijuana, on private property, by a person who has attained the age of 21 years?"

Voters in two additional Michigan cities, [Jackson](#) (population 33,000) and [Ferndale](#) (population 20,000) approved similar measures on Election Day.

In Jackson, an estimated 60 percent of voters decided in favor of changing the city code to eliminate criminal and civil penalties regarding the "possession or transfer of less than one ounce of marijuana on private property by a person who has attained the age of 21 years." In Ferndale, approximately 70 percent of voters approved similar depenalization language. Under present state [law](#), the possession of any amount of cannabis for non-medical purposes is a criminal misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$2,000 fine.

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<continued from previous page> Last year, voters in four Michigan cities - Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, and Ypsilanti - [all voted overwhelmingly](#) in favor of municipal measures to depenalize minor marijuana offenses involving adults. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Director, at (202) 483-5500.*

Colorado: Voters Enact Statewide Tax Scheme For Commercial Cannabis Production And Retail Sales

Denver, CO: A majority of Colorado voters have [approved](#) tax rates on the commercial production and retail sales of cannabis.

Voters in 2012 had [previously approved](#) a statewide ballot measure authorizing the establishment of state-licensed marijuana producers and retailers. Lawmakers this spring proposed tax rates on both licensed cannabis production and retail sales, both of which are set to begin early next year. Under state law, adults also have the option to grow up to six cannabis plants for their own personal use. Adults do not need to possess a state license to engage in personal cultivation.



On Tuesday, an estimated 65 percent of voters decided in favor of Proposition AA, which authorizes a 15 percent excise tax and a special sales tax of 10 percent on marijuana products sold by the state-licensed stores. Revenue derived from the taxes is intended to fund

public school construction and to provide state oversight to cannabis businesses. [Colorado NORML](#) had opposed the proposed elevated taxation levels, [opining](#), "It is our position that excessive taxation ... has the potential effect to keep a black market for marijuana alive in Colorado."

Voters in various Colorado cities, including Denver and Boulder, [also backed](#) separate local retail taxes on cannabis sales. Starting in January, [over 100](#) licensed retail outlets are expected to begin selling cannabis to those ages 21 and older. Under the new tax scheme, cannabis will be among the most heavily taxed consumer products in the state. *For more information, please contact Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Director, at (202) 483-5500. Additional information is available from Colorado NORML here: <http://www.coloradonorml.org/>.*

Wisconsin: Half Of State Voters Back Legalizing Marijuana Use

Milwaukee, WI: One out of two Wisconsin voters believe that marijuana use ought to be legal, according to [survey data](#) released by Marquette University Law School.

Fifty percent of respondents [agreed](#) with the statement, "[M]arijuana use should be made legal." Forty-five percent of respondents disagreed with the statement.



Under present [law](#), the possession of any amount of cannabis in Wisconsin is classified as a criminal misdemeanor, punishable by up to six-month in jail and a \$1,000 fine. Any subsequent marijuana possession offense is classified as a felony, punishable by up to 3.5 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

The Marquette University poll is the latest in a series of statewide surveys, including state-specific polls in [California](#), [Florida](#), [Louisiana](#), [Maryland](#), [Michigan](#), and [Texas](#), showing that more adults support [legalizing cannabis](#) than approve of its criminal prohibition.

Eight hundred randomly sampled registered voters participated in the poll. A random half-sample of those surveyed responded to the specific question regarding marijuana policy. The Marquette poll has a margin of error of +/-3.5 percent. *For more information, please contact Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Director, at (202) 483-5500, or visit [Wisconsin NORML](#) at: <http://www.winorml.org/blog/>.*

Pot Shots Fired: Recreational vs. Medicinal

Washington State -- As Washington begins to accept applications for the state's first regulated recreational pot shops, cries of protest about its plans for medical marijuana are coming from unexpected quarters: the left. A year after voters put their state on track to become one of the only places in the world where marijuana can be legally owned and sold for purely recreational use, the state legislature still has to decide what to do with its rickety, fifteen-year-old medical-marijuana system. With the Department of Justice's hawkish eyes trained on the state—determined to ensure

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<continued from previous page> that the drug, which is still illegal under federal law—remains under strict control, some bureaucrats and lawmakers are afraid that Washington's unregulated medical-marijuana system could doom the whole experiment.

In October, a working group commissioned by the legislature recommended that lawmakers should fold regulation of medical marijuana into the new recreational system, with a tax break for patients but few other concessions, like a personal growing exception for medical use or separate stores for therapeutic weed. The new framework would also scale back pot patients' existing privileges, reducing the amount of marijuana they can possess at a given time and cutting back on the diseases that qualify for a medical card. Patients, many of whom wanted the state to establish a separate regulatory system for therapeutic pot, were outraged. "People all over the world are watching and they're about to see us wipe out medical marijuana," says Kari Boiter, a medical-marijuana patient and activist. "What kind of message does that send to other states who are thinking about legalizing marijuana?"

The question facing Washington is one that will vex legalizers for years to come: Should medical marijuana be regulated differently than recreational weed? Advocates for pot's therapeutic benefits certainly think so; some doctors even believe that researching marijuana's medical benefits should be a higher priority than full legalization. In Colorado, which also legalized pot in 2012, medical dispensaries will remain separate from the new retail stores, although entrepreneurs can receive dual licenses and sell both kinds of marijuana under the same roof. But if Washington's legislature, which will consider changes to the state's medical-marijuana law when it convenes in January, follows the working group's advice, patients will be expected to frequent the state-regulated stores—under the auspices of the Liquor Control Board—for medical pot, something that some feel is akin to filling a prescription at your local liquor store.

Source: American Prospect >
<http://cannabisnews.com/news/27/thread27742.shtml>

Colorado Raids Linked to DOJ Memo Violations & Drug Gangs

On Thursday November 21, US law enforcement agents, along with local police officers raided 14 medical marijuana locations around Colorado (including dispensaries, grow warehouses and 2 private residences), making it one of the largest federal raids since the state's medical marijuana laws went into effect. A search warrant identifies 10 target subjects, noting alleged violations to the latest DOJ memo

dealing with state pot laws that contradict federal policy. On August 29th, the Justice Department issued a memo to federal prosecutors indicating it wouldn't interfere with legal marijuana businesses that are acting compliance with state law, so long as they strictly adhere to eight specific areas of concern such as preventing distribution to minors and cultivation on public lands. Jeff Dorschner, spokesman for the U.S. Department of Justice in Denver said that "there are strong indications that more than one of the eight federal prosecution priorities identified in the Department of Justice's August guidance memo are potentially implicated." Two of those [violations appear to include](#) trafficking marijuana outside of states where it has been legalized and money laundering. No arrests have been made in this case as of yet.

Many of the locations raided on Thursday had multiple marijuana-related businesses at a single address. According to the [Denver Post](#), "Investigators believe the businesses that were raided are all "one big operation...[and that] those targeted in the raids had been actively purchasing area dispensaries and growhouses over a sustained period of time."

Juan Guardarrama, One of the named targets, is known to have a criminal history with potential ties to [Cuban and Colombian drug gangs](#), according to the Miami Herald. In 2012 Guardarrama, who is also referred to as "Tony Montana" from the Al Pacino movie "Scarface," asked undercover police officers to transport his CO-grown marijuana to Florida and "to take out" his partner. He pleaded guilty earlier this year in Miami in a [racketeering case](#).

This case clearly has a lot of moving parts, and more information is needed to understand the full scope of the situation. But, if evidence proves that there have been large-scale violations to any of the recent DOJ memo's eight areas of concern, one can't be surprised that the federal government would act in accordance to its own guidelines. As more information emerges, the public will get a better understanding of the story and the alleged players involved in this operation. See more at: <http://medicalmarijuana.com/medical-marijuana-news/title.cfm?artId=1059#sthash.ryDttSr0.dpuf>

The cultivation of cannabis for personal use in Uruguay

Like many people of his generation in Uruguay, Sebastian Romero started smoking marihuana when he was a teenager.

"It's then that I started to use it daily, I've smoked every day since I finished high school. And that was 6 years ago. So it's been 6 years that I smoke every day." <continued on next page>



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

<continued from THE CULTIVATION OF CANNABIS FOR PERSONAL USE IN URUGUAY, previous page> While the sale, transport and cultivation of cannabis is still illegal in Uruguay, in the coming weeks, the Uruguayan Parliament is expected to pass a law which will allow consumers to grow up to 6 plants at home, but also regularize the production and distribution of cannabis : a world first. But for many Uruguayans, the law will only legalize a habit that's already entrenched in their culture.

"The advantage of Uruguay is that the consumption of marijuana was never penalized, so socially it's always been something normal. People smoke marihuana on the street, at the stadium."

There are an estimated 120,000 users of cannabis in Uruguay, around 4% of the population, according to government sources. And Sebastian is also one of the 10,000 people who already grows plants at home.

"I like smoking the one I grow myself. Because I know what it is, the smell it has. It's like your tomatoes in your garden, they are of better quality than the one you buy in the supermarket."

The law is expected to pass at the beginning of December but will not be implemented until mid-2014. It is still unclear how the government will control the number of plants each consumer will own and how much they produce. Though the limit is set at 480 grams per year, the same amount as one will be allowed to buy, Sebastian points out some plants can produce up to half a kilo of marihuana each. **SOURCE >>** <http://news.yahoo.com/photos/cultivation-cannabis-personal-uruguay-photo-214005807.html>

Moroccan party holds parliamentary hearing to legalize cannabis for medical, industrial uses

RABAT, Morocco – One of Morocco's main political parties has held a hearing about legalizing cannabis growing for medical and industrial uses. Representatives of the Party for Authenticity and Modernity said such a law would, in part, improve the lives of the one million people in the country who make their living growing marijuana. Authorities largely turn a blind eye to the extensive cultivation of cannabis in Morocco's northern Rif mountains, much of which is exported to Europe as hashish.

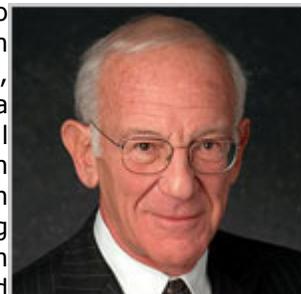
Some lawmakers say the small farmers reap little profit from its cultivation, with massive profits going to drug lords and traffickers. The hearing, held Wednesday in Rabat's parliament building, included testimony about medical and industrial uses of marijuana. The party hopes to propose legislation by next year. **SOURCE >>**

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/12/04/moroccan-party-holds-parliamentary-hearing-to-legalize-cannabis-for-medical/>

NORML Remembers Peter Lewis: Long-Time Philanthropist To Marijuana Law Reform Efforts

Coconut Grove, FL: Peter Lewis, long-time Chairman of Progressive Insurance and a generous financial backer of various marijuana law reform efforts, [died](#) Saturday, November 23, due to natural causes. He was 80 years of age.

Over the past three decades, Mr. Lewis [provided tens of millions](#) of dollars of to various marijuana law reform organizations and campaigns, including statewide marijuana legalization initiatives and legal efforts. In the 2012 election alone, Mr. Lewis provided an estimated \$3 million in funding to [successful](#) statewide reform efforts in Massachusetts and Washington.



Writing in *Forbes Magazine* in 2011, Lewis [stated](#), "My mission is to reduce the penalties for growing, using and selling marijuana. It's that simple. ... I deeply believe that we'll have a better country and a better world if marijuana is treated more or less like alcohol." He added, "[M]ore than half of Americans have used marijuana themselves. I am one of those Americans, and I know firsthand that marijuana can be helpful and that it certainly isn't cause for locking anyone up."

Mr. Lewis had publicly [acknowledged](#) first trying cannabis at age 39 and then returning to the plant at the age of 64 to combat chronic pain from a partial leg amputation. NORML expresses its sincere condolences to the friends and family of Peter Lewis.

