



Activists say “Make Jobs, Not War” - Urge People to Vote Yes On 74

Measure 74 to Allow Medical Cannabis Dispensaries in Oregon

Many opponents of Measure 74 don't believe that medical marijuana should be legal in Oregon at all. For instance, Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin sponsored a ballot measure to repeal Oregon's medical marijuana law and replace it with a new government-run program to distribute pharmaceutical drugs at taxpayer expense.

Here are some of responses to the most common arguments against Measure 74:

- **Marijuana is not a medicine.** A group opposing Measure 74 calls medical marijuana “a cruel

<continued on page 3 >

California: State's Largest Labor Union Endorses Marijuana Depenalization Initiative

Sacramento, CA, USA: The California council of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the state's largest union, has endorsed Proposition 19, The Regulate, Control & Tax Cannabis Initiative of 2010. If passed, the measure would legalize the private adult possession and cultivation of marijuana, and allow local government the option to regulate the plant's commercial production and sale.

In a letter to the campaign, union President Bill A. Lloyd wrote that passage of Prop. 19 would generate new tax "revenues [that] will help the state and local governments

<continued on page 4 >

Pot Compound Reduces Anxiety In First Ever Clinical Trial

Sao Paulo, Brazil: The administration of the cannabinoid cannabidiol (CBD), a non-psychoactive component of marijuana, reduces anxiety in subjects with social anxiety disorder (SAD), according to clinical trial data published online in *The Journal of Psychopharmacology*.

Investigators at the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil assessed the anti-anxiety activity of oral doses of CBD in ten subjects in a double blind, placebo-controlled trial.

Researchers concluded, "CBD reduces anxiety in SAD and that this is related to its effects on

<continued on page 3 >



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**

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 MEASURE 74, page 1 > hoax." In reality, new research findings point to marijuana's value in treating pain and multiple sclerosis, in addition to its well-recognized value in preventing nausea and vomiting. That's why more than 3,300 different Oregon doctors have recommended it as a medicine to their patients.

• **This initiative legalizes marijuana.** Experience in Oregon proves that allowing medical use of marijuana does not mean legalizing it for everyone. For 12 years the state has operated a rigorously controlled program by which patients obtain credentials from a state agency only after their physician has approved medical use of marijuana. Measure 74 simply provides those qualified patients a way to obtain medical marijuana. Meanwhile, non-medical users – probably 90% or more of all the people consuming marijuana in Oregon – remain subject to current law and must continue to obtain marijuana on the black market.

• **The California experience shows it won't work.** There's a world of difference between California's medical marijuana law and Measure 74. Oregon's existing law is much more limited as to which patients can qualify. California has no statewide regulation of supply at all, whereas Measure 74 would institute a statewide system. California's law does not require providers to be nonprofits, but Measure 74 does. Oregon's proposal avoids the mistakes of other states.

• **Oregon can't afford it.** One anti-74 group says, "The State cannot afford costs for licensing and regulating" medical marijuana suppliers. This ignores the finding of five state officials whose official "Estimate of Financial Impact" for Measure 74 projects revenues of \$3 million to \$20 million, with costs between \$400,000 and

\$600,000 per year. Moreover, Measure 74 expressly prohibits the use of any general fund revenues for the program.

• **Regulating medical marijuana is unnecessary.** Actually, opponents don't say this in so many words, but it is effectively the position they take. Today, many patients must buy marijuana on the black market, enriching criminals. Growers of medical marijuana may mix with suppliers of non-medical marijuana. No one pays taxes. Measure 74 will bring necessary order and regulation.

Should we regulate medical marijuana, or force patients to buy it on the black market? YES on Measure 74 is the compassionate choice for patients in Oregon, and the smart choice for our communities. Vote YES on Measure 74 to provide:

+ **Regulated supply:** Qualified patients could obtain medical marijuana from regulated, nonprofit clinics like pharmacies.

+ **Strict controls & accountability:** Suppliers would be subject to background checks, inspections, record-keeping, auditing and zoning, and other regulations.

+ **State revenues:** The system will generate \$3 million-\$20 million per year for Oregon's budget from taxes and fees paid by participants, much more than the cost of regulation.

How do patients get their medicine now? Most patients have very few options to get medical marijuana. Oregon's medical marijuana law merely says that patients are legally allowed to possess it or grow a small amount for themselves, after their doctors authorize them to use it. As a fallback, patients may legally designate another person to grow it for them, by having that person register with the Oregon Division of Health Services.

<continued on next page>

Practically speaking, most patients must buy marijuana on the black market or wait for it to grow. This is nothing like the pharmacy system we have for other medicines. Measure 74 would bring Oregon much closer to having medical marijuana pharmacies by authorizing non-profit clinics to provide it to qualified patients.

How many Oregon doctors have recommended marijuana to patients?

According to official statistics of the Oregon Division of Health Services, more than 3,300 separate Oregon doctors have recommended marijuana to their patients. This equates to about one-third of all physicians licensed by the state of Oregon. The percentage of general practitioners is likely to be higher, as many licensed physicians are specialists or otherwise would not be expected to serve patients with a need for medical use of marijuana.

Are all of the necessary regulations specified in Measure 74?

No, and for good reason. Measure 74 relies on a public, accountable rulemaking process to design some important details. The Oregon Division of Health Services will need to work with stakeholders including doctors, patients' groups, law enforcement and community leaders to establish some details of how the new, regulated supply system will operate.

The drafters of Measure 74 saw this public process as superior to setting all of the rules in stone in the text of the ballot measure. What's more, rules and regulations that do not work optimally can be changed in a later rulemaking process.

The Oregon Division of Health Services has shown over 12 years of implementing Oregon's first medical marijuana law that the agency can be trusted to carry out this mission faithfully. It's the right agency to manage the expansion of that law to

encompass the regulated supply of medical marijuana now.

Learn more about Measure 74, who supports it, and how you can help! Visit –

<http://measure74.com/>

<continued from UNION ENDORSES INITIATIVE, page 1 >
protect and invest in jobs we need to provide for our families.

"[W]e look forward to joining you in any way we can to help pass Proposition 19," the letter concludes. The SEIU has some 750,000 members in California.

Proposition 19 has also gained support from the council that oversees political activities for the United Food and Commercial Workers in California and four other western states. The Northern California council of the International Longshore & Warehouse Union, Communications Workers of America Local 9415 and Sign Displays & Allied Crafts Local 510 have also endorsed the campaign.

Other groups backing the campaign include the California state chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Latino Voters League, the National Black Police Association, and the California Council of Churches IMPACT. Californians favor the measure by a vote of 47 percent to 38 percent, according to the latest statewide poll, published on Wednesday.

For more information, please visit: <http://yeson19.com>.

<continued from POT REDUCES ANXIETY, page 1 >
activity in limbic and paralimbic brain areas."

The study is the first clinical trial to investigate the effects of CBD on human pathological anxiety and its underlying

<continued on next page>

<continued from previous page> brain mechanisms.

Previous studies of CBD have demonstrated the compound to possess anti-inflammatory activity, anti-cancer activity, and neuroprotective effects – among other therapeutic properties.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Neural basis of anxiolytic effects of cannabidiol (CBD) in generalized social anxiety disorder: a preliminary report," appears online in The Journal of Psychopharmacology.

Inhaled Cannabis Reduces Pain, Improves Sleep In Patients With Neuropathy, Study Says

Montreal, Quebec, Canada: Inhaled cannabis reduces pain and improves sleep compared to placebo, and is well tolerated by patients with chronic neuropathy, according to clinical trial data published this week in the *Journal of the Canadian Medical Association (CMAJ)*.

Investigators at McGill University in Montreal assessed the efficacy of inhaled cannabis on pain intensity in 23 subjects with chronic post-traumatic or postsurgical neuropathic pain in a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled crossover trial. Participants in the study received a single inhalation of 25 mg of 9.4 percent herbal cannabis or placebo three times daily. All of the volunteers in the study suffered from refractory pain for which conventional therapies had proven ineffective.

Researchers reported: "[H]erbal cannabis ... significantly reduced average pain scores compared with ... cannabis placebo in adult participants. ... We found significant improvement in measures of sleep quality and anxiety. ... Our results support the

claim that smoked cannabis reduces pain, improves mood, and helps sleep."

Speaking with Web MD, the study's lead researcher Mark Ware said: "We've shown again that cannabis is an analgesic. Clearly it has medical value."

In February, investigators from the California Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research summarized the results of four separate FDA 'gold standard' designed clinical trials demonstrating that inhaled marijuana was safe and effective for the treatment of neuropathy.

An estimated one to two percent of the population suffers from some form of neuropathic pain, which typically goes untreated by standard analgesics.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Smoked cannabis for chronic neuropathic pain: a randomized controlled trial," appears online at the CMAJ website at: <http://www.cmaj.ca/>.

Rhode Island: Health Agency Rejects All Applicants Seeking Medical Dispensary Licenses

Providence, RI, USA: State Department of Health officials announced that they have rejected all 15 applicants who applied for licenses to distribute medical marijuana in accordance with the state's 2009 law.

Under the law, state officials were required to issue licenses by July 2010 to allow for not-for-profit entities to "supply or dispense" marijuana to authorized patients. To date, no licenses have yet to be issued by the state.

Health Department officials said that nine of the 15 applicants failed to comply with the state's medical marijuana regulations,

<continued on next page>

<continued from previous page> while six applicants were denied for technical reasons – such as exceeding the application's page limits.

Health officials said that the agency expects to issue a new request for proposals in October.

This summer, Maine Health officials approved the state's first ever state-licensed medical cannabis dispensaries. New Mexico health officials also license medical marijuana providers and retail distributors.

Rhode Island lawmakers initially enacted legislation allowing for state-qualified patients to possess, grow, and use marijuana for therapeutic purposes in 2007. Lawmakers enacted separate legislation in 2009 to allow for the Department of Health to issue licenses for the operation of non-profit 'compassion centers' to provide cannabis to authorized patients.

To date, over 2,200 individuals are registered in Rhode Island to use cannabis legally. Another 1,600 individuals are registered as caregivers, a status which permits them to grow up to 24 marijuana plants for designated patients.

For more information, please visit: <http://ripatients.org>.

Supposed 'Gateway' Theory Short-Lived, Influenced By Environmental Factors, Study Says

Durham, NH, USA: Age and unemployment, but not marijuana use, are most likely to be associated with an individual's decision to use so-called 'hard' drugs, according to survey data published this month in the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*.

Investigators at the University of New Hampshire tracked the use patterns of approximately 1,300 young adults who attended south Florida public schools in the 1990s. Researchers tracked the participants from enrollment in the sixth or seventh grade until they reached their late teens or early 20s.

Authors reported that the factors most likely to be associated with subjects' progression to hard drug use were age, stress, and whether or not they were employed following high school.

"It really didn't matter if someone used marijuana or not as a teen," lead investigator Karen Van Gundy told the website *Web MD*.

Van Gundy also implied that criminalizing marijuana users could inadvertently drive individuals toward more serious illicit drug use. "If we overly criminalize behaviors like marijuana use among teens, this could interfere with opportunities for education and employment later on, which, in turn, could be creating more drug use," she said.

A 2006 study by investigators at the University of Pittsburgh also reported that environmental factors and subjects' "proneness to deviancy," but not subjects' marijuana use alone, were the two characteristics that most commonly predicted substance abuse later in life.

Commenting on the study, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said: "It is clear that there is nothing specific to the pharmacology of cannabis that increases the likelihood that marijuana users will progress to so-called harder drugs.

However, it is clear that the culture

<continued on next page>

<continued from previous page> surrounding marijuana prohibition – which inherently exposes marijuana consumers to pushers of other illicit substances – likely plays a role. This phenomenon strengthens the arguments in favor of regulating marijuana as a legal commodity for adults."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "A life-course perspective on the 'gateway hypothesis,' appears in the September issue of the Journal of Health and Social Behavior.

California: Marijuana Infraction Measure Sent To Governor

Sacramento, CA, USA: Lawmakers passed legislation this week reducing statewide marijuana possession penalties from a criminal misdemeanor to an infraction.

On Monday, members of the Assembly voted 43 to 33 in favor of Senate Bill 1449, which amends the California Health and Safety Code so that the adult possession of up to 28.5 grams of marijuana is classified as an infraction, punishable by no more than a \$100 fine. The vote split largely along party lines, with Democrats voting 40 to 8 in favor of more lenient penalties and Republicans voting 2 to 23 against the bill.

Senate lawmakers had previously approved the measure by a vote of

21 to 13.

The bill now goes to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger for approval.

Under present law, minor marijuana possession for non-medical purposes is classified as a criminal misdemeanor. While the offense is not punishable by jail time, defendants charged under the law must appear in court, pay court costs, and attend a court-ordered diversion program. Offenders who refuse to attend the program may retain a criminal record for up to two years.

NORML Deputy Director praised the vote and urged Gov. Schwarzenegger to sign the measure into law. "Passage of the bill would save the state millions of dollars in court costs by keeping minor marijuana offenders out of court. The number of misdemeanor pot arrests has surged in recent years, reaching 61,388 in 2008. Adults who consume marijuana responsibly are not part of the crime problem, and the state should stop treating them like criminals."

For more information, please contact Dale Gieringer, California NORML Coordinator, at (415) 563-5858, or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Additional information on S.B. 1449 is available online at NORML's 'Take Action' Center at:

<http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/alert/?alertid=16364941>

<continued on next page>



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

Detroit: Court Says That Marijuana Depenalization Measure Will Not Appear On 2010 Ballot

Detroit, MI, USA: A circuit court judge has ruled that voters will not be able to decide this November on a proposed municipal ballot measure to prohibit the criminal prosecution of adults who possess minor amounts of marijuana.

Members of the Coalition for a Safer Detroit collected over 6,000 signatures from registered voters to qualify the measure for the 2010 ballot. The Detroit Election Commission certified the signatures in June. However, in August the Commission voted 3 to zero to remove the proposal from the ballot – claiming that, if passed, the ordinance would be in conflict with state law.

This week a Wayne Circuit Court Judge upheld the commission's decision.

The Coalition's lead attorney, NORML Legal Committee member Matthew Abel, told the *Detroit Free Press* that organizers will likely appeal the ruling, but that the appeals process will not be resolved before November.

*For more information, please visit:
<http://saferdetroit.net>.*

*** NOTE! The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting * Happens (most!) every 4th Sat. of the month and will be at**



Cozmic Pizza - in Theo's Coffee House Meeting Room - at 199 W 8th Av, Eugene, Oregon * Excepting Holidays - Nov., Dec. - when it takes place 3rd Sat.! For more info on meeting call: 541.517-0957 -or- visit: <http://w-v-norml.org/meeting.html>

**Toasted h'ERb'S Kitchen,
1210 Willamette St, Eugene
It's One Hell of A Joint!
call: 541.343-2845 -or- visit:**



<http://toastedherbs.com/> - and see!