



## NORML Responds To White House's 'Potent Pot' Scare Campaign

**Washington, DC, USA:** Data published this week by the University of Mississippi's Marijuana Potency Monitoring Project indicating an increase in the strength of cannabis' primary psychoactive ingredient THC is further evidence of the failure of criminal pot prohibition, NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said today.

"The federal government spends billions of dollars each year enforcing criminal marijuana laws and what does it have to show for it: more marijuana users, greater marijuana availability, and stronger pot," he said.

St. Pierre added, however, that more potent marijuana is not necessarily more dangerous. "Marijuana poses no risk of fatal overdose, regardless of THC content," he said. "In addition, studies indicate that cannabis consumers readily distinguish between high and low potency marijuana and moderate their use accordingly, just as an alcohol consumer would drink fewer ounces of (high potency) bourbon than they would ounces of (low potency) beer."

St. Pierre also denied claims  
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### Join NORML, Tommy Chong, And The Nation's Top Pot Law Attorneys At The 2nd Annual NORML Aspen Legal Seminar

**Washington, DC, USA:** Criminal defense attorneys, members of NORML's Legal Committee, marijuana-law reform advocates, and members of the general public are all invited to join NORML in Aspen, Colorado this June for the 2007 Aspen Legal Seminar.

This two-day conference will take place Friday evening, June 8 through Sunday, June 10 at the Gant Hotel in downtown Aspen, one of the nation's most marijuana-friendly cities. Featured speakers at this year's event include NORML Advisory Board Member Tommy Chong and famed San Francisco attorney J. Tony Serra.

Chong, best known for his work as one-half of the comedy duo "Cheech and Chong," was the victim of a selective federal prosecution in 2003 when authorities sentenced him to nine months in prison for selling marijuana-related paraphernalia over the Internet.

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### Pot's Active Ingredient Halts Lung Cancer Growth, Study Says

**Los Angeles, CA, USA:** The administration of THC significantly reduces lung tumor size and lesions, according to preclinical data presented this week at the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) in Los Angeles.

Investigators at Harvard University's Division of Experimental Medicine reported that THC inhibited the growth and spread of cells *in vitro* from two different lung cancer cell lines and from patient lung tumors. They also reported that THC administration reduced the growth of lung tumors in mice by more than 50 percent compared to untreated controls over a three-week period.

Researchers noted that THC appeared to block a specific cancer-causing protein in a manner similar to the pharmaceutical anti-cancer drugs Erbitux (Cetuximab) and Vectibix (Panitumumab).

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

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

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

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

<continued from POTENT POT, page 1 > that the availability of stronger cannabis was responsible for the rise in so-called "marijuana treatment" admissions. "The overwhelming majority of young people in the US referred to 'treatment' for marijuana are there because they violated state pot laws, not because they or their loved ones believed they were suffering ill effects from cannabis," he said. "In reality, this surge in treatment admissions is an outgrowth of enhanced marijuana law enforcement, not enhanced marijuana potency." For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org).

<continued from SEMINAR, page 1 > Serra, whose legendary clients have included members of the Black Panther Party, the Hells Angels, and the Symbionese Liberation Army, also recently served 10 months in federal prison for failing to pay federal taxes -- an act he defined as one of civil disobedience. This will be one of the first times he has spoken publicly about his experience.

Other speakers at this year's conference include Gerald Goldstein, past president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys (NACDL) and legal counsel for the late-Hunter S. Thompson; former Seattle Police Chief and current NORML Advisory Board Member Norm Stamper; Aspen Sheriff Bob Braudis; Denver attorney Harold Haddon, whose clients have included pro basketball star Kobe Bryant, Jon and Patsy Ramsey, and the late-Hunter Thompson; and Jeralyn Merritt, television legal analyst for MSNBC and host of the popular website TalkLeft.com. A complete speakers' list and conference agenda is available online at: [http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=6823](http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6823).

After-hours festivities at this year's event include a Friday night opening reception, a special Saturday night benefit dinner (hosted by Chris and Gerry Goldstein and catered by Aspen chef Chris Lanter of Cache Cache), and a Sunday afternoon cookout at the fabled Owl Farm, Hunter Thompson's legendary Woody Creek home. Non-lawyers and members of the general public will be able to attend NORML's 2007 Aspen Legal Seminar and social events for a reduced price of \$150. Don't miss this unique opportunity to listen to and mingle with national legal experts on issues of marijuana law reform, as well as members of NORML's staff and Board of Directors. For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500 or register online at: <https://secure.norml.org/aspen/index.html>.

<continued from POT HALTS LUNG CANCER, page 1 > Results of a large-scale, case-controlled population study published last year found that smoking cannabis, even long-term, is not positively associated with increased incidence of lung-cancer. Investigators in that study noted that one subset of moderate lifetime users had an inverse association between cannabis use and lung cancer, leading them to speculate that cannabinoids may possess certain protective properties against the development of lung cancer in humans.

Separate preclinical studies indicate that compounds in marijuana inhibit cancer cell growth in animals and in culture on a wide range of tumoral cell lines -- including human breast carcinoma cells, human prostate carcinoma cells, and human colorectal carcinoma cells, among others. Most recently, investigators at Madrid's Complutense University, School of Biology, reported in the *British Journal of Cancer* that THC administration decreases recurrent glioblastoma multiforme (brain) tumor growth in patients diagnosed with the disease. For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst at [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org), or download the NORML white paper, "Cannabinoids as Cancer Hope," available online at:

[http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=6814](http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6814)

## NORML Affiliates Protest Pot Prohibition On Tax Day

**Washington, DC, USA:** On Monday, April 16, 2007, NORML chapters around the country held protests at their local post-offices to call on elected officials to tax and regulate cannabis in a manner similar to alcohol and tobacco.

"No day is more appropriate for America's citizens to protest their government's criminalization of cannabis than tax day," said NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre. "Cannabis consumers may be the only community in America who are demanding the federal government to tax and regulate our product of choice."

Replacing marijuana prohibition with a system of taxation and regulation similar to alcohol could produce combined savings and tax revenues as high as \$14 billion per year, St. Pierre said - citing a 2005 study by Boston University economist Jeffrey Miron.

A 2006 study reported that cannabis ranks as the top cash crop in twelve states and is worth more

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<continued from previous page> than \$1 billion per year in five states: California, Tennessee, Kentucky, Hawaii, and Washington. Most recently, California's Board of Equalization announced that it will seek to collect taxes on the state's 150 to 200 medicinal cannabis dispensaries.

"This tax day, when millions of Americans are lamenting filing their paperwork with the IRS, federal officials should remember that at least one community is standing up and demanding to be counted," St. Pierre said. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500, or visit: <http://www.norml.org>.*

## African-American Mothers More Likely To Be Tested For Drugs, Study Says

**New York, NY, USA:** African-American women and their newborns are more likely to be drug tested than are other women, even after controlling for sociodemographic and clinical factors, according to a study published in the current issue of the *Journal of Women's Health*.

Investigators at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City analyzed factors associated with the decision to drug test women with live births over a one-year period in a single hospital. Of the 8,487 mothers, 244 mother-newborn pairs (three percent) were tested for illegal drugs. Researchers reported that "black women and their newborns were 1.5 times more likely to be tested for illicit drugs as non-black women," after controlling for obstetrical conditions and sociodemographic factors, such as single marital status or a lack of health insurance.

"There was no association between race and a positive toxicology result," investigators determined.

In many states, mothers who test positive for cannabis during or prior to childbirth can lose custody of their child and/or face criminal charges.

A 1990 study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* reported that African-American mothers who tested positive for illicit drugs were ten times more likely to be reported to child protective services than white and Hispanic counterparts. *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study, "The effect of race on provider decisions to test for illicit drug use in the peripartum setting," appears in the *Journal of Women's Health*.*

## Saliva Tests Still Not Reliable For Detecting Cannabis, Study Says

**Bethesda, MD, USA:** Saliva tests do not reliably detect the presence of THC, according to a review of ten separate oral fluid, point-of-collection drug testing devices published in the January/February issue of the *Journal of Analytical Toxicology*.

Researchers at The Walsh Group in Bethesda, Maryland, evaluated the reliability of ten oral fluid devices to detect various controlled substances, including THC and its inactive metabolite THC-COOH, at cutoff concentrations recommended by the manufacturers.

Of the ten devices tested, six recorded either false negative or false positive test results for THC. Five devices also recorded false positive results for THC-COOH.

Manufacturers' proposed cutoff guidelines for THC varied widely from product to product, from 15ng/ml (lowest recommended cutoffs) to 600ng/ml (highest recommended cutoffs). Currently, no federal regulations govern oral fluid testing cutoff standards.

Investigators concluded, "The detection limits are improving for THC, but reliable detection of marijuana use in forensic investigations, such as driving under the influence and the workplace, remains problematic."

Previous evaluations of onsite oral fluid tests have also shown the technology to be unreliable for detecting the presence of cannabis, particularly when administered at roadside checkpoints. Several European nations and a handful of US states are testing the use of such devices in an on-going field study investigating the prevalence of motorists who drive under the influence of controlled substances. *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at (202) 483-5500. Full text of the study, "Evaluation of ten oral fluid point-of-collection drug-testing devices," appears in the January/February issue of the *Journal of Analytical Toxicology*.*

## Marijuana Arrests Increase Despite Voter-Approved Initiative Abolishing City's Pot Penalties

**Denver, CO, USA:** Marijuana arrests in Denver increased more than 10 percent from 2005 to 2006, despite the recent passage of a municipal ordinance calling on police to cease penalizing adults who possess small amounts of pot.

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<continued from previous page> Non-felony pot arrests rose from fewer than 2,200 in 2005 - when 54 percent of Denver voters approved I-100, a citywide ordinance abolishing civil and criminal penalties for the possession of up to one ounce of marijuana by citizens age 21 and older - to approximately 2,500 in 2006.

"The Denver Police Department has done the exact opposite of what the voters demanded and has gone out of its way to arrest even more adults than ever before," said SAFER (Safer Alternative For Enjoyable Recreation) Director Mason Tvert, who coordinated the I-100 initiative. "Perhaps even more disturbing is the lack of interest among Denver's elected officials - particularly our mayor - in supporting the people who elected them."

Similar voter-approved efforts to 'deprioritize' marijuana law enforcement in several cities have led to a decrease in marijuana possession arrests - most notably in Seattle.

Among those arrested by Denver police on minor pot violations, 32 percent were African Americans. According to census data, African-Americans comprise only 11 percent of Denver's population.

Nationally, a 2005 NORML Foundation study reported that although African-American adults account for fewer than 12 percent of all marijuana users, they comprise 23 percent of those arrested annually on pot possession charges. A previous review of marijuana arrest data by NORML in 2000 found that African-Americans are busted for marijuana possession at rates twice those of whites in 64 percent of US counties.

Most recently, a 2007 study by the National Development Research Institute reported that 85 percent of the defendants arrested in New York City for the crime of possessing marijuana in the fifth degree were either African-American or Hispanic. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500, or visit: <http://www.saferchoice.org>.*

## **FDA Postpones Decision On Safety Of Controversial Cannabinoid Blocking Agent**

**Rockville, MD, USA:** US regulatory authorities announced that an independent Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisory committee will hear testimony in June regarding whether the controversial cannabinoid receptor antagonist SR 141716A/Rimonabant is safe for human consumption.

The agency had previously announced that it would decide by April 26, 2007, whether to grant US market approval for Rimonabant as a weight-loss drug.

Neither the FDA nor the drug's manufacturer, Sanofi-Aventis Pharmaceuticals, gave a reason for the postponement. Under the FDA's revised timeline, the agency's Endocrinologic and Metabolic Drugs Advisory Committee will hear testimony regarding the drug's safety and efficacy on June 13, 2007. The FDA has previously denied Sanofi-Aventis Pharmaceuticals permission to market the drug in the US.

Rimonabant, marketed under the trade name Acomplia, recently received regulatory approval for sale in Europe as a prescription dietary aid. It is the first cannabinoid antagonist ever to be approved for human consumption.

Rimonabant blocks the natural binding of endogenous cannabinoids (as well as exogenous cannabinoids such as delta-9-THC, the psychoactive component of marijuana) to the neuronal CB1 receptors, causing users to lose their appetites. However, because the endocannabinoid receptor system is intricately involved in the regulation of a broad range of primary biological functions -- including appetite, body temperature, mood regulation, blood pressure, bone density, reproduction, learning capacity, and motor coordination -- some experts are concerned that the long-term use of Rimonabant or similar drugs may eventually contribute to a host of significant adverse health effects.

In preclinical trials, newborn mice injected with Rimonabant refuse feeding and often die days after birth. Mice genetically bred to lack the CB1 receptor also suffer from numerous health defects such as cognitive decline, hypoalgesia, decreased locomotor activity, and increased mortality compared to healthy controls. At least one published case study reports that daily use of the drug may have triggered neurological symptoms of multiple sclerosis in a volunteer with no known history of the disease. Mental health side effects, such as depression, are also commonly reported among volunteers administered Rimonabant.

In human trials, daily administration of Rimonabant is associated with lower blood sugar levels and weight loss compared to placebo. Sanofi is seeking to market the drug in the US under the trade name Zimulti. *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at (202) 483-5500.*

## **Cannabinoid Receptor Agonist Significantly Reduces Post-Operative Pain, Study Says**

**London, England, UK:** The intravenous administration of low doses of the cannabinoid receptor agonist cannabimimetic significantly reduces post-operative pain compared to placebo, according to clinical trial data released this week by the Israeli biotechnology company Pharmos Pharmaceuticals.

Investigators at London's University College Analgesia Centre assessed the efficacy of single doses of the selective CB2 receptor agonist cannabimimetic on nociceptive pain (nerve pain due to tissue damage) in 100 volunteers participating in a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. Researchers reported that the intravenous administration of a 12-milligram dose of cannabimimetic produced a statistically significant decrease in patients' overall pain versus placebo. However, larger doses of the drug did not result in pain relief, investigators noted.

Patients in the trial reported no adverse side effects from the drug. Investigators said that the findings are sufficient to warrant additional clinical trials on the use of cannabimimetic to treat various chronic and/or neuropathic pain conditions.

A previous trial found that the intravenous administration of cannabimimetic reduced both pressure-induced and heat-induced pain in the skin of healthy volunteers.

Separate clinical trial data published last year in the journal *Anesthesiology* reported that low doses of cannabis plant extracts significantly relieved post-operative pain in patients who had undergone knee replacement surgery.

Most recently, the February 2007 edition of the journal *Neurology* reported that inhaled cannabis significantly reduces HIV-associated neuropathy, a painful nerve condition that often goes untreated with standard pain medications. *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org).*

## **"Smokeless" Cannabis Delivery System Found "Safe And Effective," Study Says**

**San Francisco, CA, USA:** Vaporization is a "safe and effective" cannabinoid delivery mode for patients who desire the rapid onset of action associated with inhalation while avoiding the

respiratory risks of smoking, according to clinical trial data to be published in the journal *Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics*.

Investigators at San Francisco General Hospital reported that use of the Volcano vaporizing device delivered "efficient" doses of THC to subjects in a "reproducible" manner while significantly reducing their intake of gaseous combustion toxins, including carbon monoxide. Eighteen subjects participated in the six-day study, which was sponsored by the state of California and the Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research.

"Vaporization of marijuana does not result in exposure to combustion gases, ... and [was] preferred by most subjects compared to marijuana cigarettes," authors concluded. "The Volcano [vaporizer] device is an effective and apparently safe vehicle for THC delivery, and warrants further investigation in clinical trials of cannabis for medical purposes."

Researchers reported that vaporization resulted in higher plasma concentrations of THC compared to smoked cannabis for up to 60 minutes following inhalation. Investigators also reported that subjects 'self-titrated' their intake of cannabis vapor, taking smaller and less frequent puffs when exposed to stronger marijuana. On average, the Volcano vaporizer exposed subjects to 54 percent of the applied dose of THC. Previous studies have shown that as much as 80 percent of the THC burned in cigarettes or water-pipes is lost in slipstream smoke.

A prior clinical trial assessing the safety and efficacy of the Volcano vaporizer published in 2006 in the *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences* also reported that the device delivers set doses of THC to subjects in a reproducible manner "while avoiding the respiratory disadvantages of smoking." The efficacy of the Volcano vaporizer was initially reported in a 2004 study co-sponsored by NORML and the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS), which found that the device delivered vapor of high purity with practically no toxic tars or hydrocarbons.

Vaporization heats cannabis to a temperature where active cannabinoid vapors form (typically around 180-190 degrees Celsius), but below the point of combustion where noxious smoke and associated toxins (i.e., carcinogenic hydrocarbons) are produced (above 230 degrees Celsius).

Separate survey data published this week in the *Harm Reduction Journal* also reports that

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<continued from previous page> vaporization is subjectively associated with fewer respiratory symptoms than smoking cannabis. For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Dale Gieringer, California NORML Coordinator, at (415) 563-5858. Abstracts of the study, "Vaporization as a smokeless cannabis delivery system: a pilot study," are available online at: <http://www.galenicom.com/medline/article/17429350/ca:66>. Abstracts of the study, "Decreased respiratory symptoms in cannabis users who vaporize," are available online at: <http://www.harmreductionjournal.com/content/4/1/11/abstract>.

## Cincinnati: City Council Makes Pot Recrim "Emergency" Ordinance "Indefinite"

**Cincinnati, OH, USA:** Members of the Cincinnati City Council voted 7-2 this week to make a provisional ordinance criminalizing minor marijuana possession offenses "indefinite," despite the law's apparent failure to show a demonstrable reduction in serious crime or so-called 'drug tourism.' The municipal ordinance, initially passed by the Council in March 2006, was slated to expire this week.

Under the ordinance, marijuana offenders in Cincinnati face up to 30 days in jail, a \$250 fine, and a criminal record for possessing small quantities of the drug. By contrast, under state law, possession of up to 100 grams of marijuana is punishable by a \$100 citation and no jail time.

Members of the City Council pushed for the ordinance last year, arguing that it would reduce the city's violent crime rate and dissuade citizens of neighboring states from traveling to Cincinnati to purchase pot. However, according to [crime statistics](#) published last week in the Cincinnati Beacon, the number of murders (16%), rapes (5%), burglaries (7%) and robberies (44%) in the city has increased since the passage of last year's ordinance. In addition, the percentage of non-Ohio citizens cited under the ordinance remained virtually [unchanged](#) from 2005 to 2006.

According to a preliminary six-month fiscal review of the ordinance, enforcement of the law has increased city police costs by more than 150 percent. A one-year report summarizing the law's impact on crime and city finances was [not made available to the public](#).

The ordinance became law without the signature of Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory. For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at (202) 483-5500. Additional information is available online at: <http://www.safecincinnati.com>.

## Hawaii: State's Legalization Of Pot Could Yield \$33 Million Annually

**West Oahu, HI, USA:** Taxing and regulating cannabis in Hawaii in a manner similar to alcohol could yield the state approximately \$33 million in annual revenues and cost savings, according to an economic analysis released last week by the University of Hawaii.

The study found that regulating cannabis could create annual tax revenues of up to \$23 million. The study added that prosecuting and enforcing state pot laws costs taxpayers approximately \$10 million per year. Of this total, more than 40 percent is spent by state and county law enforcement solely to enforce marijuana possession laws.

"Those who favor legalization... argue that policies like those involved in the regulation of alcohol and tobacco are far more effective in limiting the individual and social costs involved," the study states. "[T]axation is significantly cheaper in terms of enforcement and outcomes than outlawing substances."

The study also reports that law enforcement efforts to restrict Hawaii's pot supply have been ineffective because the black market price of marijuana per ounce has fallen over the last decade -- indicating a marked increase in supply and consumption.

A [previous nationwide analysis](#) of marijuana policy by Boston University economist Jeffrey Miron reported that enforcing state and federal pot laws costs taxpayers an estimated \$7.7 billion annually.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500. Full text of the study, "The budgetary implications of marijuana decriminalization and legalization for Hawaii," is available online from the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii website at: <http://www.dpfhi.org>.



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

## New Mexico Becomes Twelfth State To Authorize Medical Cannabis Use

**Santa Fe, NM, USA:** New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson (D) signed legislation into law this week ordering the establishment of a statewide medicinal cannabis distribution program. Senate Bill 523, the "Lynn and Erin Compassionate Use Act," mandates the state Department of Health to promulgate rules governing the use and distribution of medical cannabis to state-authorized patients. These rules shall address the creation of state-licensed "cannabis production facilities" and "define the amount of cannabis that is necessary to constitute an adequate supply" for qualified patients.

The Department of Health is ordered to establish the program by October 1, 2007. Patients will not be permitted to cultivate their own medical cannabis under the program.

Governor Richardson, who lobbied for the bill's passage, said: "This law will provide much-needed relief for New Mexicans suffering from debilitating diseases. It is the right thing to do."

New Mexico is the twelfth state since 1996 to enact legislation protecting medical cannabis patients from arrest and state criminal prosecution, though it is only the fourth to do so legislatively. *For more information about the "Lynn and Erin Compassionate Use Act," please visit:*

<http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/alert/?alertid=9475741>

## NORML Affiliates Nationwide Celebrate 'High Holiday'

**Washington, DC, USA:** NORML affiliates in more than a dozen states held events on Friday, April 20th, to acknowledge "420" the official day for cannabis awareness. NORML chapters in Dallas, Las Vegas, Philadelphia, Santa Barbara, Tuscon and other cities across the nation held rallies and other events commemorating the day, and called on their

elected officials to stop arresting adults who consume cannabis responsibly.

"April 20th has emerged as the most organic and culturally driven day of cannabis awareness, not just in the United States, but also worldwide," said NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre. "However, while this is a day of notable celebration, it also is a stark reminder of the absurdity of cannabis prohibition in our free market-oriented, democratic society."

*For a complete listing of NORML affiliated "420" events, please contact Erin Dame, NORML Outreach Coordinator, at (202) 483-5500. Additional information is available online at: <http://www.norml.org> or <http://www.hightimes.com>. A special "420" edition of NORML's podcast will air at:*

<http://www.normlaudiostash.com>

## NORML Offering Rare Autographed Marijuana Memorabilia On eBay

**Washington, DC, USA:** NORML is offering over 30 rare pieces of marijuana memorabilia for auction this month exclusively through the organization's new eBay store, available online at: <http://stores.ebay.com/NORML-Gear>.

Items for sale include signed photos, autographed posters, rare prints, custom collectibles, signed books, and other significant pieces of historical and unique pot memorabilia.

"Over the years NORML has accumulated a massive collection of rare, cannabis-related art and memorabilia," said NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre. "This is a unique opportunity for our supporters and the general public to own a few pieces of our incredible, one-of-a-kind treasure trove."

*For more information, please visit:*

<http://www.normlaudiostash.com>



