



Measure 74 - to Allow Medical Marijuana Dispensaries in Oregon – is on the Ballot

Medical marijuana advocates are hitting the streets, internet and airwaves promoting a measure on the November ballot – numbered 74 - which would create a system in which state-licensed pot growers would distribute their crops to dispensaries where people could buy the herb to treat their ailments. Currently, those people either have an approved provider grow it for them or grow it themselves – or surf the internet and hit the streets to find a source, often with unhealthy and even tragic results.

Of the 13 or so states that have any legalized medical marijuana laws in place, five of them - including California - make provision for dispensaries where patients can get their medicine. Colorado, Rhode Island, Maine and New Mexico are the others that currently have some system for dispensing. There have been concerns about possible federal intervention in Oregon, but that changed last October, when the Obama administration announced it

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Rasmussen Poll: Fewer Than One In Five Americans Say Marijuana Is More Dangerous Than Booze

Ashbury Park, NJ, USA: Fewer than one in five Americans nationwide believe that consuming marijuana is more dangerous than drinking alcohol, according to a national telephone poll of 1,000 likely voters by the polling firm Rasmussen Reports.

Fifty percent of respondents, including the majority of those who said that they drank alcohol, rated the use of marijuana to be less dangerous than booze. Only 17 percent of those polled said that cannabis is the more dangerous of the two substances.

Twenty-six percent of respondents said that both substances are equally dangerous.

Commenting on the poll results NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano, co-author of the book *Marijuana Is Safer: So*

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California: Latino Voters League, Black Police Officers Endorse Marijuana Depenalization Initiative

Sacramento, CA, USA: Representatives from the Latino Voters League (LVL) and the National Black Police Association have offered formal endorsements of 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.

"The so called 'war on drugs' has been a gigantic failure, and approving Proposition 19 in November in California will hasten its demise," Antonio Gonzalez, coordinator of the Latino Voters League (LVL), announced at an August 13 press conference. "[A]pproving Proposition 19 will strike a blow to violent

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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 DISPENSARY INITIATIVE MAKES BALLOT, page 1 > would not go after people in states who use medical marijuana legally.

"It was a watershed event. It's really the thing that has made this ballot initiative viable," said John Sajo, executive director of the Voter Power Foundation, which helped draft Oregon's 1998 law and is just one of the organizations backing the measure.

Keith Stroup, spokesman for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) in Washington D.C, said that the Obama administration's stance will prompt other states to also consider marijuana dispensaries.

"Within a very few years, any state that has legal medical marijuana will certainly have a legal supply. They will all allow some kind of regulated dispensary," said Stroup, who founded NORML and is the group's legal counsel.

Current Oregon law allows registered patients to grow up to six mature marijuana plants or designate a grower to do it for them. But many patients don't want to do either.

"People should have a safe place to obtain cannabis. We should treat it like any other medication," said Alice Ivany, a Newport woman who uses marijuana to alleviate pain she's suffered since losing her lower left arm in a timber mill accident years ago. Ivany is one of the co-sponsors of the proposed initiative that would require the state Health Division to license, inspect and audit growers and dispensaries. It also would create a program, administered by the state, to provide medical marijuana to indigent patients.

The program would be funded by license fees and taxes on growers and dispensaries. The expected physical impact is to be one of, put simply, raise a bunch of money. 10 to 40 million is estimated to be the benefit in the first year with as much as a billion dollars over the first ten.

Oregon's current medical marijuana program was enacted by voters in 1998, who approved an initiative measure setting it up by a 55-45 percent margin. As of Jan. 1, 26,274 patients were registered with the state to use marijuana for medicinal purposes, with 5,836 more applications pending final approval. People with pending applications are allowed under state law to use

medical marijuana. It's been estimated that there are about 15,000 medical marijuana grow sites in Oregon, operated either by the user or an approved grower.

Any proposed expansion of Oregon's program is being opposed by some law enforcement officials. They cite a spike in the number of pot busts involving growers who have received state permission to cultivate a small amount of marijuana for medical use but who grow more than the law allows and sell it illegally on the street. Umatilla County Sheriff John Trumbo said the proposed law would only make matters worse and that he thinks the best move would be to repeal the medical marijuana program altogether.

He said that with the expansion of the medical pot program, "you're taking a step closer to legalizing marijuana use by anybody who wants to use it."

But Klamath County Sheriff Tim Evinger said the proposed expansion would be a step in the right direction.

"If, in fact, it is a needed drug, and it is providing a benefit to somebody who is ill, I frankly think it should be purchased by prescription at a pharmacy and produced by a commercial operation that is monitored, that is secured, and the quality, content and safety issues are addressed, just like any controlled substance that is prescribed," he said.

Sajo argues that Oregon's law needs to be updated so that all qualifying patients have convenient access to quality marijuana.

"Medical marijuana is here to stay," he said. "It's time for policy makers to figure out how to make it work effectively." *For more information visit -*
<http://regulatemedicalmarijuana.org/>

Washington, DC: Medical Marijuana Dispensaries Not Likely Until Mid-2011

Washington, DC, USA: Qualified patients will not be legally able to obtain or possess medical marijuana in the District until at least next summer, according to draft regulations recently

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<continued from previous page> issued by Mayor Adrian Fenty's office. Under the law, which took effect in late July, the Department of Health and the D.C. Alcohol Beverage Control Board will establish and oversee regulations for the licensed cultivation and distribution of marijuana to registered patients. However, according to a draft version of the regulations circulated by the Mayor's office, the regulatory framework for the District's dispensaries and cultivation centers won't be completed until January 2011. It is not anticipated that the facilities will be up and running for several months afterward.

As amended, the District's medical marijuana law only permits patients to possess marijuana legally if they are registered with the Health Department and have obtained cannabis from a licensed dispensary.

NORML Legal Counsel Keith Stroup criticized the delay. "Many of the patients that this law is specifically designed to protect -- such as D.C. residents with HIV, cancer, and multiple sclerosis -- need medical cannabis now, not a year from now. These people should not be subject to arrest and incarceration for using a medicine that helps them. Who knows how long D.C. politicians and regulators may drag their feet on this issue? Why should patients have to suffer in the interim?" *For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at: (202) 483-5500.*

Marijuana Compound Halts Breast Cancer Tumor Growth

Madrid, Spain: The administration of THC reduces the tumor growth of metastatic breast cancer and "might constitute a new therapeutic tool for the treatment" of cancerous tumors, according to preclinical data published online in the journal *Molecular Cancer*.

Investigators from Complutense University in Madrid assessed the anti-tumor potential of THC and JWH-133, a non-psychotropic CB2 receptor-selective agonist, in the treatment of ErbB2-positive breast tumors – a highly aggressive form of breast cancer that is typically unresponsive to standard therapies.

Researchers reported, "[B]oth Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol ... and JWH-133 ... reduce tumor growth [and] tumor number [in mice]. ...

[T]hese results provide a strong preclinical evidence for the use of cannabinoid-based therapies for the management of ErbB2-positive breast cancer."

In 2007, investigators at the California Pacific Medical Center Research Institute reported that the administration of the nonpsychoactive cannabinoid CBD limited breast cancer metastasis in a manner that was superior to comparable synthesized agents.

Previous preclinical studies assessing the anticancer properties of cannabinoids have shown that they inhibit the proliferation of a wide range of cancers, including brain cancer, prostate cancer, oral cancers, lung cancer, skin cancer, pancreatic cancer, biliary tract cancers, and lymphoma. *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Cannabinoids reduce ErbB2-driven breast cancer progression through Akt inhibition," is available online at: <http://www.molecular-cancer.com/content/9/1/196>.*

Spain Approves Marijuana Spray As Medicine

Madrid, Spain: Spanish regulators have approved the sale and marketing of Sativex, an oral spray consisting of natural cannabis extracts (primarily the plant cannabinoids THC and cannabidiol aka CBD) as an adjunct therapy for the treatment of multiple sclerosis. (MS).

The approval comes some two months after British health regulators legalized the drug. Separate regulatory approval remains pending in several additional European markets, including France, Germany, and Italy.

Sativex was approved in Canada in 2005.

In clinical trials, Sativex has been demonstrated to reduce MS-associated spasticity, pain, and incontinence. Long-term investigational trials indicate that consistent use of the cannabis-based medicine may also slow the progression of the disease.

Clinical trials to assess the use of Sativex to treat cancer pain are pending in the United States.

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

<continued from RASMUSSEN POLL, page 1 > *Why Are We Driving People to Drink*, said: "By almost any objectively measurable standard, cannabis is safer than booze – both to the individual consumer and to society as a whole. However, given our government's longstanding demonization of the cannabis plant and its users it is remarkable that anyone – much less half of America – recognizes this fact. Ideally, these survey results will spark a long-overdue national dialogue asking why our laws target and prosecute those who choose to possess and consume the less dangerous of these two popular substances."

Respondents also agreed, by a nearly two-to-one majority, that marijuana was far less dangerous than smoking cigarettes.

A majority of respondents (65 percent) said that they believed that marijuana would be legal in the United States within ten years.

For more information, please contact Allen St Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at: (202) 483-5500. .

Commonly Prescribed Medications Often Trigger 'False Positive' Results On Urine Drug Screens, Study Says

Tulsa, OK, USA: Prescribed medications commonly trigger 'false positive' results for illicit substances on urine drug screens, according to a review published in the August 15th edition of the *Journal of the American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists*.

Investigators at the University of Oklahoma, College of Pharmacy conducted a comprehensive literature review assessing the likelihood of 'false positive' drug test results for 116 separate medications.

"Reports of false positive UDS (urine drug screens) result were found for 25 (21.5 percent) of the 116 formulary medications," authors found.

Prescribed medications were most likely to yield false positive results for amphetamine or methamphetamine, the study reported.

Medications were far less likely to positive for marijuana. Nevertheless, researchers concluded that "acute or chronic ibuprofen use" was occasionally associated with false positive cannabinoid results. However, these results were

only documented on the enzyme-mediated immunoassay (EMIT) test.

Authors concluded: "A number of routinely prescribed medications have been associated with triggering false positive UDS results. Verification of the test results with a very different screening test or additional analytical tests should be performed to avoid adverse consequences for patients."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Commonly prescribed medications and potential false positive urine drug screens," appears in the Journal of the American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists.

Effects Of Random Student Drug Testing Programs Limited, Education Department Study Says

Alexandria, VA, USA: Students subjected to random high school drug testing programs express the same willingness to use illicit drugs in the future as do students who are not exposed to testing, according to the findings of July study published by the US Department of Education.

Investigators assessed the self-reported usage of illicit substances among students in 36 high schools. Half of the schools assessed had administered federally funded high school drug testing programs, while half had not.

Researchers reported that the impact of the testing programs on student's self-reported use of illicit drug appeared to be limited and temporary.

The study found that students who engaged in extracurricular activities and were subjected to random testing were less likely than their peers at schools without drug testing to self-report having used drugs in the previous thirty days. However, the apparent deterrent effects were not long lasting, as students subjected to drug testing were no less likely than their non-exposed peers to admit that they intended to use illicit substances within the next 12 months.

Investigators also failed to find any 'spillover effects' attributable to random drug testing.

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Authors concluded: "MRSDT (mandatory random student drug testing) had no statistically significant spillover effects on the retrospective substance use reported by students not participating in covered activities. For nonparticipants, there was no significant difference in self-reported substance use between the treatment and control schools. ... For intended substance use, MRSDT had no statistically significant impacts. ... Students in treatment schools were as likely as students in control schools to report that they 'definitely will' or 'probably will' use substances in the next 12 months."

A previous 2007 study of mandatory student drug testing programs published in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* reported that programs that target high school athletes do not reduce self-reported drug use and may encourage greater risk-taking behaviors. *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "The effectiveness of mandatory random student drug testing" is available online at: <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/pubs/20104025/pdf/20104025.pdf>*

<continued from OFFICERS ENDORSE MARIJUANA INITIATIVE, page 1 > gangs and Mexican cartels that prey on our communities by removing their profit incentive. Parents worried about drug use today among their teenage children should support Proposition 19 because it will reduce the availability of cannabis among underage persons by controlling it and regulating it in the same way alcohol is controlled."

The LVL is a "nonpartisan organization dedicated to mobilizing Latino voters around progressive issues."

Last week, at its national conference in Sacramento, The National Black Police Association also endorsed the measure. The National Black Police Association has some 15,000 members nationwide. "[Passage of Prop. 19] means that we will be locking up less African American men and

women and children who are using drugs," the group's Executive Director Ron Hampton said. "[Under the present policy,] blacks go to jail more than whites for doing the same thing."

According to a report published in July, African Americans are arrested for marijuana possession offenses in California's 25 largest counties at more than twice the rate of Caucasians.

The California state chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) had previously expressed its "unconditional support" for Prop. 19.

California voters will decide on the measure this November. According to the most recently released statewide poll on the measure, 50 percent of Californians support Prop. 19 while 40 percent oppose it. *For more information, please visit:*

<http://yeson19.com>

Detroit: Marijuana Depenalization Measure In Litigation

Detroit, MI, USA: Proponents of a proposed municipal ballot measure to prohibit the criminal prosecution of adults who possess minor amounts of marijuana are appealing a city election commission ruling that would bar voters from deciding on the proposal this November.

Members of the Coalition for a Safer Detroit had 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, last week 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. Coalition representatives are appealing the ruling. A hearing on the matter in Wayne County Circuit Court is scheduled for Thursday, August 26.

Proponents of the measure say that they will appeal the decision to the state Supreme Court, if necessary. They note that in 2004 Detroit voters approved Measure M, which amended the Detroit city criminal code so that local criminal penalties would no longer apply to any individual

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<continued from previous page> "possessing or using marijuana under the direction ... of a physician or other licensed health professional."

The Detroit Election Commission made no effort to legally challenge that measure.

For more information, please visit:

<http://saferdetroit.net>

House Passes National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2010

Washington, DC, USA: The US House of Representatives last week passed legislation, HR 5143, that seeks to establish a national commission to "undertake a comprehensive review of the criminal justice system."

House Bill 5143 is the companion bill to Senate Bill 714, the National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2010. It would establish a blue-ribbon commission to assess US criminal justice policies and make recommendations to Congress.

"Today our prison population is expanding at an alarming rate, with costs to the taxpayers that are unsustainable," House sponsor William Delahunt (D-MA) said in a prepared statement. "(This) bill ... will assess the current crisis, reverse these disturbing trends and help save taxpayer money."

The companion version of the bill awaits action from the full Senate.

Commenting on the House bill's passage, NORML Legal Counsel Keith Stroup said: "It's been decades since a federally appointed commission has taken an objective look at American criminal justice policies, and it's been nearly 40 years since federal lawmakers have undertaken a critical examination of U.S. drug policy. This vote recognizes that changes to America's 'do drugs; do time' mentality are necessary and long overdue."

For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500.

2010 National NORML Conference

Washington, DC, USA: NORML continues preparing for its 2010 national conference, taking place Thursday, September 9 through Saturday, September 11, at the historic Governor Hotel in Portland, Oregon. Panel discussions will include:

- **Just Say Now: Full Legalization, Full Steam Ahead**
- **Not Your Father's Medical Marijuana – Latest Breakthrough's in Cannabis Science**
- **It Can't Hurt to Ask – Research on Patient Experiences With Medical Cannabis**
- **Lessons From The 'Dry Decade': What Cannabis Law Reformers Need To Learn From Alcohol's Reformers**
- **The Future of Medical Cannabis Distribution**
- **Marijuana Prohibition: The New Jim Crow**
- **Stiletto Stoners? Not! Women, Cannabis And Respect**
- **Cannabis Cultivation: Ready, Set, Grow!**

Confirmed speakers at this year's conference include: former New Mexico Governor and present Presidential candidate **Gary Johnson**; international travel host and NORML Advisory Board member **Rick Steves**; **Dr. Gregory Carter** of the University of Washington, School of Medicine; **Dr. Amanda Reiman** of the University of California at Berkeley, School of Social Welfare; **Steph Sherer**, Executive Director of Americans for Safe Access; **Madeline Martinez**, manager of the Oregon Cannabis café and a member of the NORML Board of Directors; **Dr. Harry Levine** of the City University of New York, Queens College; **Craig Reinerman, PhD**, Professor of Sociology and legal studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz; **Rep. Earl Blumenauer** (D-OR); and **Dr. Marsha Rosenbaum**, director *emerita* of the Safety First Project and director *emerita* of the San Francisco office of the Drug Policy Alliance.

Attendees who attend NORML's Wednesday night pre-registration party will also have the opportunity to visit the Oregon 'World Famous Cannabis Café.' NORML invites the public to join hundreds of likeminded marijuana law reformers at the nation's only annual conference dedicated to ending cannabis prohibition. *Online registration, as well as further details on conference speakers, agenda, and social events, is available at:* http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=8125



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

Oregon: State NORML Affiliate Re-Opens 'World Famous Cannabis Café'

Portland, OR, USA: Oregon NORML, a state affiliate of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), has re-opened the 'Cannabis Café' – a 4,000 square foot lounge that caters to authorized medical marijuana patients.

Patrons of the café, who must be in good standing with the state's medical marijuana program as well as a member of Oregon NORML, may consume cannabis on the premises.

Oregon NORML initially opened the café last November, but recently moved the operation to a larger location. The café's debut in 2009 received international media headlines, including mentions by the *Associated Press*, *Reuters News Wire*, and *The New York Times*.

Unlike conventional marijuana dispensaries that operate in states like California and Colorado, medical cannabis is not sold on the premises, nor is the primary function of the café to dispense marijuana. "This is not a medical marijuana dispensary with a café; this is a café for medical marijuana patients," said Madeline Martinez, Oregon NORML Executive Director and a member of NORML's Board of Directors. A video of the café's re-opening celebration is available online on youtube.com at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37eaXC1x54M>. For more information, please visit:

<http://usacannabiscafe.org/>

* 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>

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

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