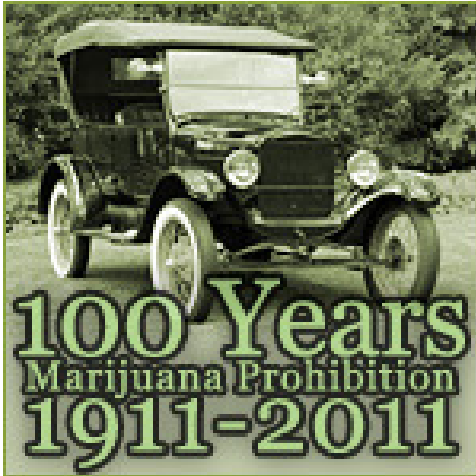




## Cannabis Prohibition “Celebrates” It’s First Century of Lying and Ruining Lives



### NORML Acknowledges Centennial Anniversary Of Bad Pot Laws

**Washington, DC, USA:** NORML [acknowledges](#) the 100-year-anniversary of marijuana prohibition, which [began](#) on April 29, 1911 in Massachusetts.

On that date, Massachusetts lawmakers enacted the first statewide law criminally prohibiting the possession and sale of cannabis by adults.

Following Massachusetts' lead, lawmakers in over 30 additional states -- including California, Maine, Indiana, and Wyoming in 1913 --

<continued on page 3 >

### Advocates File Lawsuit Demanding Federal Government Honestly Assess Medical Value Of Cannabis

**Washington, DC, USA:** A coalition of public interest advocacy groups [filed suit](#) this week in the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia to compel the Obama administration to respond to a nine-year-old [petition](#) to reclassify marijuana under federal law.

The suit was filed by attorneys Joe Elford of [Americans for Safe Access](#) (ASA) and Michael Kennedy of the [NORML Legal Committee](#) on behalf of the [Coalition for Rescheduling Cannabis](#) (CRC). The Coalition, which includes [NORML](#) and [California NORML](#), filed a comprehensive rescheduling petition with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on October 9, 2002, challenging marijuana's [Schedule I federal classification](#) as a controlled substance with "no currently accepted medical

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### SCOTUS: Warrantless Searches Of Homes Acceptable If Police Suspect Drugs Are Being Destroyed

**Washington, DC, USA:** Police may enter a residence without a warrant if they suspect that illicit substances are present and that those inside are making efforts to dispose of them, the United States Supreme Court [ruled](#) this week in an 8-1 decision.

The ruling reverses a determination by the Kentucky Supreme Court that found that the warrantless entry violated protections granted by the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The Court [determined](#) that the smell of marijuana emanating from outside the residence, combined with law enforcement's testimony that they heard sounds coming from inside the home that they believed to be indicative of the destruction of evidence, were exigent

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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

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

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

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

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

<continued from PROHIBITION, page 1 > implemented similar statewide prohibitions. Federal lawmakers in 1937 imposed a national ban on the plant by enacting the [Marihuana Tax Act](#).

California NORML Director Dale Gieringer [states](#): "The evidence is overwhelming that the 100-year war on cannabis has failed.[P]rohibition has served as a crime-creation program, criminalizing otherwise innocent Americans, promoting a criminal market, and generating disrespect for the law. ... As in 1911, so today it is government officials, drug cops and bureaucrats, now entrenched in a multibillion-dollar complex of anti-drug agencies and programs, who are the staunchest supporters of the failed system that keeps them on the public payroll. Americans would be well advised to reject their bankrupt paternalism and reclaim their historical freedom to use cannabis."

*For more information, please contact either Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500, or Dale Gieringer, California NORML Coordinator, at: [dale@canorml.org](mailto:dale@canorml.org).*

<continued from ADVOCATES, page 1 > use" and a "high potential for abuse." The agency [formally accepted](#) the petition for filing on April 3, 2003, and per the provisions of the United States Controlled Substances Act (CSA) referred the petition to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in July 2004 for a full scientific and medical evaluation.

To date, the federal government has not publicly responded to the petition.

The [lawsuit](#) petitions the Court for a writ of mandamus "directing the DEA and the Attorney General to issue a full and final determination on petitioners' Petition to reschedule marijuana, or, alternatively, state whether it will initiate rulemaking proceedings, within 60 days."

It states: "The DEA's delay here of more than eight years since the rescheduling Petition was filed -- and more than four years since it received HHS' binding evaluation and recommendations -- is inexcusable. ... [T]his agency delay in acting on the rescheduling

Petition is unreasonable, requiring this Court to intervene."

Under the CSA, the Attorney General has the authority to reschedule a drug if he finds that it does not meet the criteria for the schedule to which it has been assigned. The Attorney General has delegated this authority to the Administrator of the DEA, presently [Michelle Leonhart](#).

The 2002 CRC petition seeks to reschedule cannabis from its Schedule I designation to a less restrictive class under the CSA "on the grounds that: (1) marijuana does have accepted medical uses in the United States; (2) it is safe for use under medical supervision and has an abuse potential lower than Schedule I and II drugs; and (3) it has a dependence liability that is also lower than Schedule I or II drugs."

NORML filed a similar rescheduling petition with the DEA in 1972, but was not granted a federal hearing on the issue until 1986. In 1988, DEA Administrative Law Judge Francis Young [ruled](#) that marijuana did not meet the legal criteria of a Schedule I prohibited drug and should be reclassified. Then-DEA Administrator John Lawn rejected Young's determination, a decision the D.C. Court of Appeals eventually affirmed in 1994.

A [subsequent petition](#) was filed by former NORML Director Jon Gettman in 1995, but was rejected by the DEA in 2001.

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

<continued from SCOTUS RULES, page 1 > circumstances - thus making the legal requirement of a search warrant unnecessary. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg dissented in the case.

*For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500. The case is [Kentucky v. King](#).*



## Inhaled Cannabis Beneficial For Fibromyalgia Patients, Study Says

**Barcelona, Spain:** The use of cannabis is associated with beneficial effects on various symptoms of fibromyalgia, including the relief of pain and muscle stiffness, according to the results of an observational case-control [study](#) published online in the journal *PLoS* (Public Library of Science) *ONE*. [Fibromyalgia](#) is a chronic pain syndrome associated with musculoskeletal pain and fatigue. Symptoms of fibromyalgia are poorly controlled by conventional medications.



Investigators at the Institut de Recerca Hospital del Mar in Barcelona, Spain, assessed the associated benefits of cannabis in patients with fibromyalgia (FM) compared with FM patients who did not use the substance. Twenty-eight users and non-users participated in the study. Authors reported: "Patients used cannabis not only to alleviate pain but for almost all symptoms associated to FM, and no one reported worsening of symptoms following cannabis use. ... Significant relief of pain, stiffness, relaxation, somnolence, and perception of well-being, evaluated by VAS (visual analogue scales) before and two hours after cannabis self-administration was observed."

Cannabis users in the study also reported higher overall mental health summary scores than did non-users.

Investigators concluded: "The present results together with previous evidence seem to confirm the beneficial effects of cannabinoids on FM symptoms. Further studies regarding efficacy of cannabinoids in FM as well as cannabinoid and stress response system involvement in their pathophysiology are warranted."

*For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study,*

*"Cannabis use in patients with fibromyalgia: effect on symptoms relief and health-related quality of life," is available online free of charge at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3080871/?tool=pubmed>.*

## Delaware Becomes 16th State To Legalize Limited Medical Use Of Marijuana

**Dover, DE, USA:** Democrat Gov. Jack Markell [signed](#) legislation – Senate Bill 17, The Delaware Medical Marijuana Act – allowing registered patients to obtain marijuana from state-licensed facilities.

Under this [act](#), patients with a qualifying illness may legally possess up to six ounces of cannabis, provided the cannabis is obtained from a state-licensed, not-for-profit 'compassion center.' State regulators have up to one year to draft rules governing the licensing and regulation of the centers. The measure provides for the establishment of at least one facility per county.

The act also provides medical marijuana patients who are not registered with the state to raise an 'affirmative defense' motion to dismiss at trial.

Full details of the law is available from NORML's 'Active State Medical Programs' page [here](#).

Delaware is the [sixteenth state](#) since 1996 to exempt qualified medical marijuana patients and providers from criminal penalties. *For more information, please see: [http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=3391](http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=3391).*

## NORML Remembers Ben Masel

**Washington, DC, USA:** Ben Masel, a prominent marijuana and free speech activist, [died](#) on Saturday as a result of complications stemming from lung cancer treatment. He was 56-years-old.

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<continued from previous page> For four decades, Masel served as the coordinator of the [Great Midwest Harvest Festival](#), one of the largest marijuana law reform rallies in the United States. For the past ten-years he served as Vice-President of the Wisconsin statewide [affiliate](#) of NORML.

Ben Masel was born in New Jersey, but moved to Madison, Wisconsin in 1971, where he became [prominent](#) for his political activism and public protests. He was a perennial candidate for state political office, and had engaged in several successful lawsuits against local officials affirming the public's right to free assembly.

This past April, Masel was [awarded](#) NORML's Lifetime Achievement Award from NORML's Board of Directors.

A lifelong tobacco smoker, Masel had been diagnosed with lung cancer earlier this year. He had been undergoing radiation treatment since March.

NORML expresses its sincere condolences to the friends and family of Ben Masel.

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## Vermont: House And Senate Lawmakers Approve Marijuana Dispensaries Measure

**Montpelier, VT, USA:** House and Senate lawmakers last week [gave final approval](#) to Senate Bill 17, which allows state-licensed facilities to dispense marijuana to medically authorized patients.

On Thursday, House lawmakers decided 99 to 44 in favor of the measure, which permits the establishment of four state-licensed medical cannabis dispensaries. Senators had previously approved the measure in April.

House lawmakers overwhelmingly backed the proposal despite last-minute [warnings](#) from the U.S. Justice Department alleging that SB 17 would conflict with federal antidrug laws.

As approved, each dispensary would be licensed by the state Department of Public Safety and would be permitted to serve up to 1,000 registered patients.

Senate Bill 17 now goes to the desk of Governor Peter Shumlin, a Democrat, who is on record [in support](#) of the measure.

To date, only the states of [Colorado](#), [Maine](#), and [New Mexico](#) have state-licensed medical marijuana facilities up and running. Regulators in [New Jersey](#) and [Rhode Island](#) have selected applicants to operate similar state-licensed dispensaries, but neither state has allowed those applicants to open their planned facilities. Additionally, permits for licensed medical marijuana businesses are expected to be issued soon in the District of Columbia.

Vermont lawmakers [initially approved](#) the physician-supervised use of marijuana in 2004, but failed to provide a state-regulated supply source.

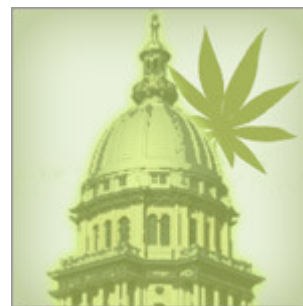
*For more information, please visit NORML's 'Take Action Center' at: <http://www.capwiz.com/norml2/issues/alert/?alertid=22312516>.*

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## Maryland: Governor Signs Measure Expanding Limited Legal Protections For Medical Cannabis Patients

**Annapolis, MD, USA:** Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley this week [signed legislation](#), Senate Bill 308, that expands the state's eight-year-old 'affirmative defense' [law](#).

[Senate Bill 308](#) removes fines and criminal penalties for citizens who, at trial, successfully raise an 'affirmative defense' establishing that they possessed limited amounts of marijuana for medical purposes.



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Under present law, patients who successfully raise an 'affirmative defense' of medical necessity at trial still face a misdemeanor conviction (but no jail time) and a \$100 fine.

Citizens who cultivate cannabis or who possess quantities of marijuana above one ounce may still raise an 'affirmative defense' at trial and, if successful, will have their sentence mitigated.

As initially introduced, SB 308 and its House companion bill sought to establish a government-regulated program to provide qualified patients with legal access to state-licensed producers and distributors of medical cannabis. However, the measure was [rewritten](#) in March after Maryland's Department of Health secretary publicly testified against it.

State lawmakers are expected to revisit the possibility of regulating the production and distribution of medical marijuana next year, after the issue is further examined by a legislative 'work group' of medical, legal, and law enforcement professionals.

*Additional information regarding Maryland's medical marijuana affirmative defense law is available at:*  
[http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=3391#Maryland](http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=3391#Maryland).

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## Montana: Restrictive Medical Marijuana Revisions Become Law

**Helena, MT, USA:** Legislation amending the state's six-year-old, voter-approved medical marijuana [program](#) became law on Saturday [without the signature](#) of Democrat Gov. Brian Schweitzer.

Senate Bill 423 [intends to reduce](#) total number of state-qualified medical cannabis patients from an estimated 30,000 to fewer than 2,000.

Senate Bill 423 requires that advising physicians be reported to the state Board of Examiners if they recommend cannabis to more than 25 patients per year. The measure also

enacts stricter qualifying requirement for chronic pain patients and prohibits licensed caregivers from receiving any financial compensation for providing cannabis to qualified persons.

Most of the provisions in SB 423 will become effective on July 1, 2011.

A [summary](#) of SB 423's provisions is available online from [Montana NORML](#). Full text of the measure is available online [here](#).

The [Montana Cannabis Industry Association](#) and various plaintiffs are challenging the legality of several provisions of SB 423. On Friday, a state district judge in Helena [temporarily ordered](#) the state not to enforce SB 423's ban on all advertising of medical marijuana products.

*For more information, please visit:*  
<http://www.montananorml.org/> or  
<http://www.mtcia.org/>.

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## Washington: Governor Vetoes Medical Marijuana Licensing Measure

**Olympia, WA, USA:** Democrat Gov. Chris Gregoire on Friday [vetoed](#) sections of [Senate Bill 5073](#), which sought to license and regulate the dispensing of medical cannabis to qualified persons, and would have enacted additional legal protections for patients who voluntarily participated in a statewide registry.

In her [veto statement](#), Gov. Gregoire alleged that the licensing and registry provisions "would open public employees to federal prosecution."

In recent weeks, United States Attorneys have sent letters to public officials in several states - including [Arizona](#), [Colorado](#), [Washington](#), [Rhode Island](#), and [Vermont](#) -- indicating that the Department of Justice may take criminal or civil action against individuals, including state employees, who assist with or engage in the production or distribution of medical cannabis,

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<continued from previous page> even if such activities were in compliance with state law.

Governor Gregoire did sign into law provisions in SB 5073 reaffirming that qualified patients and their caregivers possess an 'affirmative defense' against state prosecution (Section 402 and 406). She also codified provisions of the measure that extend legal protections to patients or caregivers who participate in a 'collective garden.'

Washington voters [initially approved](#) the state's medical cannabis law by initiative in 1998. The measure provided limited legal protections for patients who possessed cannabis under a doctor's supervision, but failed to address how much marijuana patients could legally possess or how they could obtain it. In 2008, lawmakers [enacted](#) Senate Bill 6032 specifying that patients could cultivate up to 15 cannabis plants and/or possess up to 24 ounces of usable marijuana for medical purposes. However, that law also failed to enact a regulated system governing marijuana distribution.

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

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## **Last Chance – this Year! - To Register For NORML's Sixth Annual Aspen Legal Seminar June 2 – 4, 2011 in Aspen; Three-Day Event Takes Place First Week-end in June**

Washington, DC, USA: Right up to the last minute, NORML was still accepting registrations from criminal defense attorneys and the general public to attend its sixth annual Aspen Legal Seminar. The seminar took place on the week of Thursday, June 2 through Saturday, June 4 at The Gant Hotel in downtown Aspen -- one of the nation's most cannabis-friendly cities.

Plenary topics at this year's conference included:

- \* Religious Use of Marijuana as a Legal Defense;
- \* DUI Marijuana: The Science and Trial Tactics;
- \* Medical Marijuana and Workers' Rights; Jury Nullification;
- \* Cannabis and Family Courts: A Survival Guide

Speakers at this year's event included NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano; Leland Berger, legal counsel for the American Alliance for Medical Cannabis; Gerald Goldstein, past president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) and legal counsel for the late-Hunter S. Thompson; John Wesley Hall, Fourth Amendment expert and Immediate Past President of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; Jeralyn Merritt, founder of TalkLeft.com and frequent television legal analyst for Fox News and MSNBC; Marjorie Russell, chair of the Litigation Skills Department at the Thomas Cooley Law School in Michigan, and NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre.

Social events at this year's conference include an opening night reception, a benefit dinner catered by Aspen chef Chris Lanter, and an afternoon cookout at the fabled Owl Farm, the legendary Woody Creek home of the late, best-selling author and NORML Advisory Board member Hunter S. Thompson.

"NORML is proud to make this once-a-year legal seminar open to lawyers and the public," said NORML founder and Legal Director Keith Stroup. "Don't miss this rare opportunity to join NORML's staff and some of the nation's top pot lawyers and activists in this unique and intimate setting.

Registration information and this year's conference agenda is online at: [http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=6823](http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6823)





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

## The Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2011 is In The House!

Texas Republican Ron Paul and a coalition of 25 co-sponsors are once again seeking to allow for the commercial farming of industrial hemp. House Bill 1831, would exclude low potency varieties of marijuana from federal prohibition. If approved, this measure will grant state legislatures the authority to license and regulate the commercial production of hemp as an industrial and agricultural commodity. Several states -- including Oregon, North Dakota, Montana, and Vermont -- have enacted regulations to allow for the cultivation of hemp under state law. However, none of these laws can be implemented without federal approval. Passage of HR 1831 would remove existing federal barriers and allow states that wish to regulate commercial hemp production the authority to do so.

"We are pleased to see the re-introduction of the Industrial Hemp Farming Act in Congress." says Vote Hemp President, Eric Steenstra. "With the U.S. hemp industry valued at over \$400 million in annual retail sales and growing, a change in federal policy to allow hemp farming would mean instant job creation, among many other economic and environmental benefits," adds Steenstra. According to a 2010 Congressional Resource Service report, "approximately 30 countries in Europe, Asia, and North and South America currently permit farmers to grow hemp." But the United States does not. As a result, U.S. companies that specialize in hempen goods have no choice but to import hemp material. These added production costs are then passed on to the consumer who must pay artificially high retail prices for hemp products.

Previous versions of The Industrial Hemp Farming Act were introduced, but failed to receive a public hearing or a committee vote. Please write your members of Congress today and tell them to end the federal prohibition of industrial hemp production. For more information about industrial hemp, please visit:

[www.VoteHemp.org](http://www.VoteHemp.org)



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



The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting happens (most!) **every 4th Sat. of the month**

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

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!