



Veteran Administration Clarifies Medical Marijuana Practices

Washington, DC, USA: The authorized use of medical marijuana by veterans should not be penalized by federal administrators or defined as 'illegal drug use,' according to a July letter issued by the US Department of Veteran Affairs, Under Secretary of Health.

The letter, from Under Secretary Robert Petzel, M.D. to Michael Krawitz, administrator for the group Veterans for Medical Marijuana Access, states that a patient's use of medical cannabis is not sufficient cause to deny him or her access to prescribed pain medications in a Veterans Affairs facility.

It states: "If a Veteran obtains and uses medical marijuana in a manner consistent with state law, testing positive for marijuana would not preclude the Veteran from receiving opioids for pain management in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facility. ... Standard pain management agreements should draw a clear distinction between the use of illegal drugs, and legal medical marijuana."

It continues: "The Veteran would need to inform his provider of the use of medical marijuana, and of

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California: Blacks, Latinos Arrested Disproportionately For Marijuana Possession Offenses, Study Says - California Chapter of the NAACP Endorses Marijuana Legalization Ballot Measure

Sacramento, CA, USA: African Americans are arrested for marijuana possession offenses in California's 25 largest counties at more than twice the rate of Caucasians, according to a report released this week by researchers at the Queens College, City University of New York and Shenandoah University in Virginia.

Authors reported that African Americans are less likely than whites to use cannabis, but are far more likely to be arrested by police for possessing it.

"Young blacks use marijuana at lower rates than young whites. Yet from 2004 through 2008, in every one of the 25 largest counties in California, blacks were arrested for marijuana possession at higher rates than whites, typically at

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Oregon: Medical Marijuana Dispensary Measure Certified For November Ballot

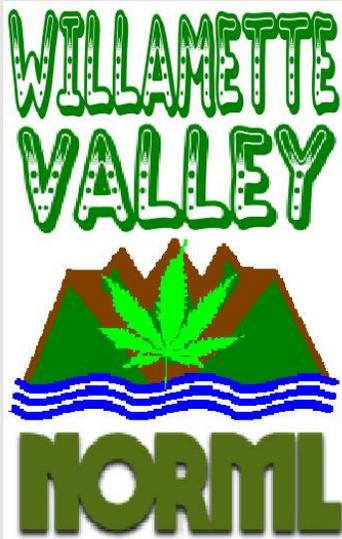
Salem, OR, USA: Election officials on Friday affirmed that proponents of a statewide ballot measure to allow authorized patients to legally obtain medical cannabis from state-licensed facilities has qualified for the 2010 November ballot.

Under the proposed measure, private facilities would be able to obtain permits to engage in the production and not-for-profit distribution of marijuana for medical purposes. Both dispensaries and private producers would be subject to inspection and auditing by the health department. Dispensaries will not be allowed to operate within 1,000 feet of any school or within residential neighborhoods.

The ballot measure is sponsored by Voter Power and the Coalition for Patients Rights.

Oregon voters initially legalized the physician-authorized use of

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The Willamette Valley NORML News Report

is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit project to record and broadcast news, announcements and information about cannabis law reform.

The W-V-NORML News Report is produced by the Eugene, OREGON chapter of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

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Check 'em out on-line! *visit:*

WillametteValleyNORML.org

A Voice for Responsible Marijuana Smokers

Since its founding in 1970, NORML has provided a voice in the public policy debate for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition and favor an end to the practice of arresting marijuana smokers. A nonprofit public-interest advocacy group, NORML represents the interests of the tens of millions of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly. During the 1970s, NORML led the successful efforts to decriminalize minor marijuana offenses in 11 states and significantly lower marijuana penalties in all others.

The oldest and largest marijuana legalization organization in the country, NORML maintains a professional staff in Washington, DC, and a network of volunteer state and local [NORML Chapters](#) across the country. Check 'em out, and find the one nearest you!

The NORML mission is to move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is no longer subject to penalty.

When marijuana is enjoyed responsibly, subjecting users to harsh criminal and civil penalties provides no public benefit and causes terrible injustices. For reasons of public safety, public health, economics and justice, the prohibition laws should be repealed to the extent that they criminalize responsible marijuana use. **NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws – is located at 1600 K Street, NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20006-2832. Phone (202) 483-5500, Fax: (202) 483-0057 or visit: www.norml.org**

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

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

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

<continued from VA CLARIFIES, page 1 > any other non-VA prescribed medications he or she is taking to ensure that all medications, including opioids, are prescribed in a safe manner. ... The provider will take the use of medical marijuana into account in all prescribing decisions, just as the provider would for any other medication. This is a case-by-case decision, based upon the provider's judgment, and the needs of the patient."

Krawitz had contacted the agency after hearing several complaints from veterans who had been denied treatment at VA facilities because of their state-authorized use of medical cannabis.

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

<continued from DISPENSARY MEASURE CERTIFIED, page 1 > marijuana in 1998. Patients may grow their own marijuana under the law or designate a caregiver to cultivate for them.

Voters in Arizona, California, and South Dakota will also decide on statewide marijuana law reform initiatives this fall.

Proponents of the measure to establish statewide regulations for the legal production and distribution of medical marijuana have collected an estimated 130,000 signatures from registered voters in an effort to qualify the proposal for the November 2010 ballot.

The measure, known as I-28, needs approximately 83,000 valid signatures to qualify for the fall ballot. The Secretary of State's office is presently in the process of verifying proponents' signatures.

Initiative 28 seeks to allow for the state-licensed production and non-profit distribution of cannabis to authorized patients. Under the plan, both dispensaries and private producers would be subject to inspection and auditing by the health department.

Polling commissioned by Voter Power, who is co-sponsoring the initiative campaign, found that 59% of Oregon voters support the measure.

In 2009, voters in Maine approved a similar measure to legalize and regulate medical marijuana dispensaries.

Lawmakers in Colorado, Maine, New Jersey, New Mexico, Rhode Island, and Washington, DC have enacted regulations overseeing the state-authorized distribution of marijuana. However, to date such regulated facilities only exist in Colorado and New Mexico.

Oregon voters initially legalized the physician-authorized use of marijuana in 1998. Patients may grow their own marijuana under the law or designate a caregiver to cultivate for them.

For more information, please visit: <http://coalitionforpatientsrights2010.com/>.

Maine, Other States, Approve Licenses For Medical Marijuana Distribution Centers

Augusta, ME, USA: State health officials have approved proprietors for six of the state's eight authorized medical marijuana dispensaries.

According to local news reports, three non-profit corporations have been chosen to operate the six facilities. One of the groups, the Northeast Patients Group, was selected to establish four of the six facilities. The Northeast patients Group is associated with the Berkeley Patients Group, a prominent California medical cannabis dispensary.

State health department officials received proposals to operate dispensaries from over two-dozen applicants.

The state declined to name operators in the two remaining health districts. Applications for those two regions will be reopened later this summer.

In April, state lawmakers enacted legislation authorizing the creation of up to eight nonprofit medical cannabis dispensaries – one for each of the state's public health districts. Under the measure, dispensaries may legally "acquire, possess, cultivate, manufacture, deliver, transfer, transport, sell, supply or dispenses marijuana or related supplies and educational materials" to state-authorized medical marijuana patients. Maine citizens approved the creation of state-licensed dispensaries in a statewide vote last November.

Lawmakers in Colorado, New Jersey, New Mexico, Rhode Island, and Washington, DC have also enacted regulations overseeing the production and distribution of marijuana. However, to date only health officials in New Mexico have licensed proprietors to legally produce and dispense marijuana to qualified patients.

In Rhode Island, health officials are in the final process of deciding which among 15 applicants will receive state authorization to produce and dispense marijuana to the state's 1,800 registered patients.

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<continued from previous page> For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483- 5500, or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.

Washington, DC: Congress Won't Overturn District's New Marijuana Dispensary Law

Washington, DC, USA: Members of Congress have declined to overrule legislation passed by the D.C. City Council in May authorizing the establishment of regulated medical marijuana dispensaries in the District of Columbia.

Congressional lawmakers had up to 30 working days to reject the law. That review period officially ended earlier this week.

In June, a pair of Republican House members, Reps. Jason Chaffetz (Utah) and Jim Jordan (Ohio) introduced legislation to overturn D.C.'s medical marijuana law, stating, "Marijuana is a psychotropic drug classified under Schedule I of the federal Controlled Substances Act as having 'high potential for abuse,' 'no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States,' and a 'lack of accepted safety for use of the drug...under medical supervision.'"

Their effort failed to gain any significant support in Congress.

Under the new law, D.C. Health Department officials will oversee the creation of up to eight facilities to dispense medical cannabis to authorized patients. Medical dispensaries would be limited to growing no more than 95 plants on site at any one time.

Both non-profit and for-profit organizations will be eligible to operate the dispensaries.

Qualifying D.C. patients will be able to obtain medical cannabis at these facilities, but will not be permitted under the law to grow their own medicine.

A separate provision enacted as part of the 2011 D.C. budget calls for the retail sales of medical cannabis to be subject to the District's six percent sales tax rate. Low-income patients will be allowed to purchase medical marijuana at a greatly reduced cost under the plan.

It will likely be several months before Health officials begin accepting applications from the public to operate the City's medical marijuana production and distribution centers.

The newly enacted legislation amends Initiative 59 -

a 1998 D.C. medical marijuana ballot measure that garnered 69 percent of the vote. City lawmakers had been barred from instituting the measure because of a Congressional ban prohibiting District officials from liberalizing municipal marijuana laws. Congress finally lifted the ban in 2009.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500. A more detailed summary of the law is available online at: http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=3391.

California: Oakland City Council Approves Regulations For First-In-The-Nation Industrial Marijuana Production Facilities

Oakland, CA, USA: Oakland city council members last week approved legislation authorizing the private, large-scale production of medical marijuana by commercial providers.

Under the measure, the city will license four production warehouses where marijuana would be grown, packaged and processed for medical use. The privately owned facilities would not be limited in size. However, the regulations will require applicants to possess a minimum of \$3 million worth of insurance, hire security, and pay a \$211,000 annual permit fee to the city.

Members of the city council said that they will vote this fall on similar regulations to oversee the licensing of smaller size grow operations.

Voters in neighboring Berkeley will decide on a similar municipal measure in November that seeks to license up to six area medical marijuana production facilities.

In a separate Oakland city council vote this week, members rejected a proposal to tax medical marijuana cultivators and dispensaries - instead electing to put the measure before voters this November. For more information, please contact Dale Gieringer, California NORML Coordinator, at: (415) 563-5858

<continued from BLACKS, LATINOS ARRESTED, page 1 > double, triple or even quadruple the rate of whites," they determined. "[B]acks were arrested for simple marijuana possession far out of proportion to their percentage in the total population of the counties. In the 25 largest counties as a whole,

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<continued from previous page> blacks are 7% of the population but 20% of the people arrested for possessing marijuana.

Overall, authors reported that in 2008 African Americans and Latinos combined comprised less than 44% of the state's population, but together constituted 56% of the people arrested in California for possessing marijuana. An estimated 80 percent of those arrested were age 29 or younger.

Citing the report, leaders from the California chapter of the NAACP on Tuesday expressed its "unconditional support" for Proposition 19: The Regulate, Control & Tax Cannabis Initiative 2010, which would allow adults 21 years or older to possess and cultivate marijuana for personal use. It would also permit local governments the option to authorize the retail sale and commercial cultivation of cannabis to adults. Personal marijuana cultivation or not-for-profit sales of marijuana would not be taxed under the measure.

Alice Huffman, President of the California State Conference of the NAACP stated: "We have empirical proof that the application of the marijuana laws has been unfairly applied to young people of color. ... We are joining a growing number of medical professionals, labor organizations, law enforcement authorities, local municipalities, and approximately 56% of the public, in saying that it is time to (depenalize) the [adult] use of marijuana."

Aubry Stone, president of the California Black Chamber of Commerce, also spoke in favor of the initiative – arguing that its passage would allow local governments to reallocate law enforcement resources toward other public services.

In 2008, police in California made over 61,000 arrests for marijuana possession offenses, a criminal misdemeanor. Law enforcement made over 17,000 additional arrests for marijuana felony violations – a category that includes personal cultivation of even a single plant. Full text of the report, entitled "Targeting Blacks for Marijuana: Possession Arrests for African Americans in California, 2004-08," is available online at: http://www.drugpolicy.org/docUploads/Targeting_Blacks_for_Marijuana_06_29_10.pdf.

California: Legislative Analyst's Office Rejects Claims Of Prop. 19 Opponents

Sacramento, CA, USA: An independent analysis of Proposition 19, The Regulate, Control & Tax Cannabis Initiative of 2010, by the California Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) finds that the

measure would not undermine workplace or highway safety standards, and would likely yield "hundreds of millions of dollars" in annual revenue.

The findings directly contradict ballot arguments against the measure, which claim that the proposal will not raise state tax revenue and "will make (California's) highways, workplaces and communities less safe."

According to the LAO report: "[T]he measure would not change existing laws that prohibit driving under the influence of drugs or that prohibit possessing marijuana on the grounds of elementary, middle, and high schools. ... [E]mployers would retain existing rights to address consumption of marijuana that impairs an employee's job performance."

Regarding the measure's proposed fiscal impact, the report states: "The measure could result in savings to the state and local governments by reducing the number of marijuana offenders incarcerated in state prisons and county jails, as well as the number placed under county probation or state parole supervision. These savings could reach several tens of millions of dollars annually."

Authors further conclude: "The state and local governments could receive additional revenues from taxes, assessments, and fees from marijuana-related activities allowed under this measure. ... To the extent that a commercial marijuana industry developed in the state, ... we estimate that the state and local governments could eventually collect hundreds of millions of dollars annually in additional revenues."

California voters will decide on the measure this November. According to the most recently released statewide poll on the measure, 52 percent of Californians support Prop. 19 while only 36 percent oppose it. *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the LAO analysis appears online here: http://www.lao.ca.gov/ballot/2010/19_11_2010.pdf.*

California: Senator Diane Feinstein Signs Ballot Argument Opposing Marijuana Depenalization Measure

Sacramento, CA, USA: California's senior senator, Democrat Diane Feinstein (San Francisco), has cosigned the ballot argument against Prop. 19, The Regulate, Control & Tax Cannabis Initiative of 2010, which would allow adults 21 years or older to

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<continued from previous page> privately possess and cultivate marijuana for personal use.

It would also permit local governments the option to authorize the retail sale and commercial cultivation of cannabis to adults. Personal marijuana cultivation or not-for-profit sales of marijuana would *not* be taxed under the measure.

Senator Feinstein issued a statement this week calling the measure "a jumbled legal nightmare that will make our highways, our workplaces and our communities less safe." Feinstein falsely claims that the measure, if passed, would prohibit sanctions against employees or motorists who are impaired by marijuana, and would cost California billions of dollars in federal funding.

"Senator Feinstein's opposition to this measure is based upon fear, not fact," NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said. "The public is well ahead of the politicians when it comes to the issue of enacting common sense marijuana law reforms."

Senator Feinstein has served in Congress since 1992.

According to the most recent statewide poll, conducted on July 11 by Survey USA, 50 percent of Californians support Prop. 19, while 40 percent oppose it.

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

Washington: Proposed Marijuana Legalization Initiative Will Not Qualify For 2010 Ballot

Seattle, WA, USA: A statewide ballot measure that sought to remove all state penalties for the possession, cultivation, use, and sale of marijuana by those over eighteen years of age will not qualify for the November 2010 ballot, the measure's proponents have told the *Associated Press*.

Backers of the volunteer effort said that they collected approximately 200,000 signatures from registered voters in favor of the proposal, known as Initiative 1068. State law requires proponents to collect some 241,000 signatures to qualify for the statewide ballot.

According to a May 2010 University of Washington poll, 52 percent of the state's registered voters said that they supported the measure, and only 35 percent opposed it. For more information, please visit: <http://sensiblewashington.org>.

New Jersey: Lawmakers Delay Implementation Of Medical Marijuana Law

Trenton, NJ, USA: State lawmakers voted on Monday in favor of legislation to delay the implementation of the New Jersey Compassionate Medical Marijuana Act, which was slated to go into effect this week.

As amended, the measure will not become law until October 2010. The Act, which authorizes the state Department of Health to establish regulations for the licensed production and distribution of medical cannabis to authorized patients, is not anticipated to be up and running until some time in 2011.

According to the *Associated Press*, "The delay allows health officials to write regulations. It also may give politicians time to consider a different model for the program." Republican Gov. Chris Christie requested lawmakers postpone implementing the law, which was signed in January by his predecessor, Democrat Gov. Jon Corzine.

Governor Christie has also suggested that lawmakers consider amending the law by limiting the production of medical cannabis to a single supply source, Rutgers University, and by restricting the drug's distribution to authorized hospitals.

"The additional restrictions suggested by the Governor are overly burdensome and would make the law fundamentally unworkable for New Jersey's patients," NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said. "Lawmakers ought to reject any further amendments or delays to the New Jersey Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act."

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500, or NORML New Jersey at: <http://www.normlnj.org>.

Marijuana Use Seldom Associated With Emergency Room Visits, Study Says

Ann Arbor, MI, USA: Lifetime use of marijuana is rarely associated with emergency room visits, according to an analysis of epidemiologic survey data published online by the *American Journal of Emergency Medicine*. Investigators at the University of Michigan reviewed the overall prevalence of drug-related emergency department (ED) visits among lifetime users of illicit

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Among those surveyed, subjects that reported using cannabis were the least likely to report an ED visit (1.71 percent). Respondents who reported lifetime use of heroin, tranquilizers, and inhalants were most likely (18.5 percent, 6.3 percent, and 6.2 percent respectively) to report experiencing one or more ED visits related to their drug use.

Investigators concluded, "[M]arijuana was by far the most commonly used (illicit) drug, but individuals who used marijuana had a low prevalence of drug-related ED visits."

A 2009 Swiss study published in journal *BMC Public Health* previously reported that the use of cannabis was inversely associated with injuries requiring hospitalization.

A prior case-control study conducted by the University of Missouri also reported an inverse relationship between marijuana use and injury risk, finding, "Self-reported marijuana use in the previous seven days was associated ... with a substantially decreased risk of injury."

Said NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano: "These findings belie the myth that adult marijuana use is a primary cause of hospitalizations or ED visits. The reality is that few if any therapeutic or psychoactive substances possess a safety profile comparable to cannabis." *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Patterns and correlates of drug-related ED visits: results from a national survey," will appear in the American Journal of Emergency Medicine.*

Experienced Marijuana Consumers Exhibit Virtually No Change In Cognitive Task Performance After Smoking, Study Says

New York, NY, USA: Experienced marijuana consumers exhibit nominal changes in cognitive performance after inhaling cannabis, according to clinical trial data published online this week in the journal *Pharmacology, Biochemistry, and Behavior*.

Investigators at Columbia University in New York and the San Francisco Brain Research Institute assessed acute marijuana-related effects on cognitive functioning in 24 volunteers who reported consuming the drug at least 24 times per week.

Researchers determined that participants' overall performance accuracy on episodic memory and working memory tasks "was not significantly altered by marijuana."

Authors concluded: "The present findings show that smoked marijuana produced minimal effects on episodic and spatial working memory of near-daily smokers. The overall response accuracy on the word recognition and working memory tasks was unaffected by marijuana, although smoked marijuana did increase the amount of time participants needed to complete these tasks.

"This pattern of effects is consistent with results previously reported by other researchers studying the acute effects of marijuana on cognitive performance of regular users. ... The finding ... stands in contrast to previous findings in occasional smokers who showed reduced accuracy on these same tasks after marijuana. ... The observation that frequent users' response accuracy is not altered after marijuana smoking to the same extent it is for infrequent users ... suggests that near-daily marijuana smokers may have developed tolerance to some marijuana-related behavioral effects."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Neurophysiological and cognitive effects of smoked marijuana in frequent users," will appear in Pharmacology, Biochemistry, and Behavior.

Pot Compound Stimulates Neurogenesis, Study Says

Berlin, Germany: The administration of the non-psychoactive cannabinoid cannabidiol (CBD) increases adult neurogenesis (the active production of new neurons) in laboratory animals, according to preclinical trial data published online in the journal *Cell Communication and Signaling*.

An international team of researchers from Germany, Switzerland, and Mexico assessed the effect of the chronic administration of THC and CBD on spatial learning (memory) and neurogenesis. Authors reported: "THC and CBD differed in their effects on spatial learning and adult neurogenesis.

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

NORML Accepts Registrations For Its 2010 National Conference

Washington, DC, USA: NORML is now accepting registrations to attend its 2010 national conference, to take place **Thursday, September 9 through Saturday, September 11**, at the historic Governor Hotel in Portland, Oregon. Panel discussions will include:

- Just Say Now! The Case For Taxing And Controlling Cannabis
- Lessons From The 'Dry Decade': What Cannabis Law Reformers Need To Learn From Alcohol's Reformers
- Stiletto Stoners? *Not!* Women, Cannabis And Respect
- Cannabis As An 'Exit', Not An 'Entry' Drug
- Medical Marijuana: The New Jim Crow?
- *High Times'* Cannabis Cultivation: Ready, Set and Grow!
- Reefer Movie Madness: The History Of Marijuana in Movies

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

*** NOTE! The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting * Happens every 4th Sat. of the month and will be at**
h'ERb'S Toasted Subs,
1210 Willamette St, Eugene
call: 541.517-0957 -or- visit:
<http://WillametteValleyNORML.org>



It's One Hell of A Joint!

Visit - <http://herbstoastedsubs.com/> - and see!

<continued from POT COMPOUND STIMULATES NEUROGENESIS previous page> CBD did not impair learning but increased adult neurogenesis, whereas THC reduced learning without affecting adult neurogenesis."

They concluded, "The pro-neurogenic effects of CBD might explain some of the positive therapeutic features of CBD-based compounds. ... Taken together, the findings suggest diverse effects of the cannabinoid system on memory and cellular plasticity."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, Cannabinoid receptor CB1 mediates baseline and activity-induced survival of new neurons in adult hippocampal neurogenesis," is available online at:

<http://www.biosignaling.com/content/8/1/12>