



National Bill For Medical Cannabis Is Still In The House

Legislation Introduced by Representative Ron Paul

Washington, DC: Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX) has introduced H.R. 5842, the "Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act," in the United States Congress, House of Representatives. This bill would make federal authorities respect states' current laws on medicinal cannabis and end DEA raids on facilities distributing medical marijuana legally under state law.

Representative Paul, whose presidential campaign prominently featured the ending of the drug war as a platform plank, was joined by Reps. Barney Frank (D-MA), Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), and Sam Farr (D-CA) in co-sponsoring this bill.

"I think marijuana is a helpful medical treatment for the people who have intractable nausea," Paul said in a 2004 House debate regarding a similar measure. "I would like to point out this is not something strange that we are

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Oregon Business Leaders Seek Termination of Medical Marijuana Patients' Right to Work, Yet Data Contradicts Workplace Safety Claims

Portland, OR, USA: The Associated Oregon Industries are planning a legislative assault on Oregon's 10-year-old medical marijuana law, claiming that medical marijuana patients in the workplace are a safety risk. However, data compiled by Oregon NORML, from Oregon state government workman's compensation and safety records, shows a ten-year decline in workplace safety statistics. The data are published and hyperlinked on the Oregon NORML website.

Harmon, an executive vice president with Hoffman Construction, has been touring the state in his capacity as chair of the Drugfree Workplace Legislative Work Group, giving presentations on their goals for the 2009 biennial legislative

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Join The Campaign Medical Cannabis For PTSD For Veterans

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a psychiatric illness that can occur following a traumatic event in which there was threat of injury or death to you or someone else. PTSD may occur soon after a major trauma, or can be delayed for more than six months after the event. When it occurs soon after the trauma it usually resolves after three months, but some people experience a longer-term form of the condition, which can last for many years.

Request to Add Conditions Made.

MERCY has received a number of contacts concerning adding PTSD to the list of Qualifying Conditions and has determined to join the effort currently in progress. There has always been a number of individuals who have had traumatic experiences as civilians as well as veterans

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The MERCY News Report is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit project to record and broadcast news, announcements and information about medical cannabis.

For more information about the MERCY News, contact us.

Snail Mail:

**The MERCY News
P.O. Box 1111,
Cornelius, Ore., 97113
503.363-4588**

E-mail:

Mercy_Salem@hotmail.com

our WWW page:

www.MercyCenters.org

Check it out!

The MERCY News Report is produced by virtue of the expense and energy of the members and staff of MERCY, the



About MERCY

MERCY is a not-for-profit, grass roots organization founded by patients, their friends and family and other compassionate and concerned citizens in the area and is dedicated to helping and advocating for those involved with the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP). MERCY is based in the Salem, Oregon area and staffed on a volunteer basis.

The purpose is to get medicine to patients in the short-term while working with them to establish their own independent sources. To this end we provide, among other things, ongoing education to people and groups organizing clinics and other Patient Resources, individual physicians and other healthcare providers about the OMMP, cannabis as medicine and doctor rights in general.

The mission of the organization is to help people and change the laws. We advocate reasonable, fair and effective marijuana laws and policies, and strive to educate, register and empower voters to implement such policies. Our philosophy is one of teaching people to fish, rather than being dependent upon others. Lasting change will require that each citizen be active enough to register and effectively vote. You, and only you, the people, can make it happen. We will help in any way we can, but you have to tell us what you need. Work with us to make this your "tool shed", or resource guide, to successful medical cannabis utilization and activism.

Meetings and Meet-Ups

Networks and Meet-Ups; Patients in the 'Hood. To update folks with current status and action items surrounding the issues affecting the medical cannabis community as well as registering voters, distributing literature and networking ideas. One of the missions of MERCY is to establish regular get-togethers in each community where there are (or will be!) medical cannabis patients.

The purpose is to get patients networking and self-sufficient within their neighborhoods, assist those seeking information about the MMP and pass on (or pick up!) action items of interest to the group. Regular meetings are being established around the state and MERCY will continue to help make them happen and network folks to them.

The goal of the meetings s/be to service:

- * **People** seeking to join the MMP or public wanting general info, usually for a friend or family member.
- * **Patients and CareGivers** wanting to network. This is being planned in conjunction with other meetings and other lines of communication for the OOMPAH. (add link to meeting network and bulletin boards)
- * **Activists** exchanging information and resources.

Please help us help the sick and dying, For more info or **If you have any information or ideas, Places to Meet or other Resources for Oregon, please let us know. Contact MERCY - the Medical Cannabis Resource Center by phone: 503.363-4588 or email: info@mercycenters.org**

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Current EVENTS

*** Every Wednesday, 7:00pm to 9:00pm ***
Patient MeetUp hosted by MERCY at at The Gathering Place in Keizer. Located at 7845 River Road NE, Keizer, Oregon, 97301, This one will happen every Wednesday. * for more info, call MERCY at: 503.363-4588 -or- visit:

http://mercycenters.org/events/Meet_Gathering.htm

*** every last Thursday of the Month, 7:00pm to 9:00pm * TV Show filming and Patient MeetUp hosted by MERCY-TV** at CCTV in Salem, at Capital Community Television, 585 Liberty St SE, Salem, Oregon, 97301 - Monthly Filming and Meeting * call: 503.363-4588 or visit - <http://mercycenters.org/tv/> - for more

*** Every 1st Monday of the month, 7pm (except September, no meet) * Medical Cannabis Network opportunity in Sweet Home.** Public Meet Up of Sweet.Net, a Medical Cannabis Resource NetWork for Patients as well as CardHolders-to-be. In Sweet Home (OR) * A Meet Up has been arranged by MERCY associate Dorothy Westofkansas at the American Legion Building, 1127 Long Street, Sweet Home, Oregon, 97386 starting at 7pm. The purpose is to establish a regular networking of Patients, Caregivers and Interested Parties in the area.

For more info about Meetings and Meet-Ups, call MERCY at: 503.363-4588 -or- visit:
<http://www.mercycenters.org/>

<continued from "NATIONAL BILL", pg 1> suggesting here. For the first 163 years of our history in this country, the federal government had total hands off, they never interfered with what the states were doing."

Thirteen states have approved the use of medical marijuana, beginning with California in 1996 with the passage of Proposition 215. Since then Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington state and now, Michigan, have joined the list.

Visit - http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=3391 - for more on Active State Medical Marijuana Programs.

Despite overwhelming public support for medical cannabis, the DEA continues to raid and harass medicinal cannabis dispensaries operating within

these states' laws. Presidential candidates Barack Obama indicated te would end such raids should he be elected.

Still continue to Register, Vote and Get Everybody You Know to Do So Also. And Vote Smart! For example, Query every candidate running for office - from local dog-catcher to presidential contender - on how they would vote on this bill.

<continued from "OREGON BUSINESS", pg 1> session. These goals include re-introducing a bill that died last session that would grant employers the right to fire medical marijuana patients for their off-site, after-hours, legal use of cannabis medicine, as well as allowing employers to refuse to hire any medical marijuana patients—regardless of skill, experience, or a clean safety record.

Hoffman is also touting plans to reduce plant and possession limits, to require patients to first use Marinol before attaining a medical marijuana card; to eliminate medical marijuana clinics by requiring only one's bona fide doctor is recommending cannabis; and to require the state to notify an employer if an employee applies for a medical marijuana card.

"Oregon's own state health and safety databases show that Dan Harmon is misleading the people of Oregon," says Russ Belville, Oregon NORML's Associate Director, who pulled together data from Oregon's Occupational Safety & Health Administration, Workman's Compensation Division, and the federal government's National Surveys on Drug Use and Health. "During the ten years that the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act has been in place, the program has grown from 500 patients to over 20,000 now. Yet, workplace fatalities, time-off injuries, non-time-off injuries, DUIDs, and citations for serious OSHA workplace safety violations have all declined in the same ten years."

"Now that doesn't mean medical marijuana patients made the workplaces any safer," Belville concludes, "but if they made the workplace increasingly more dangerous, that's not showing up in these data. Harmon is

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In 1998, after Measure 67 (the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act) was approved by voters, there were 3.3 workplace fatalities per 100,000 workers. There were also 3.5 non-fatal injuries, requiring no time off, and 3.4 non-fatal injuries requiring no time off. By 2006, those figures had dropped to 2.1, 2.4, and 2.8, respectively. There were 4,446 citations of serious OSHA violations in 1998; in 2005 the number was 4,309. DUI citations, crashes, and fatalities per 1,000 Oregonians dropped from 7.5, 6.5, and 0.16 to 7.0, 5.5, and 0.11, respectively, from 1998 to 2006.

The data, however, may be irrelevant to Harmon. While he cites workplace safety and legal liability as factors in discriminating against medical marijuana patients in the workplace, he and other business leaders in testimony before a House committee in 2007 could not cite one instance where a patient's legal off-site, after-hours use of medical cannabis contributed to any workplace safety incident. Revealing his true intentions, Hoffman was quoted in the Albany Democrat-Herald calling his work a "moral crusade" and that acceptance of medical marijuana "says something about permissiveness in this state, and we've got to stop this permissiveness."

Source http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7756 - For more information, please see Tables and charts of the data from official Oregon and federal databases appears on the "Data" page at Oregon NORML's website, <http://ornorml.org/data>.

Pot Poll: Support for Medical Marijuana is High

As reported, Hoffman Construction general counsel Dan Harmon has been touring the state to stoke support for a new law making it easier for employers to fire medical-marijuana patients.

But based on a new poll paid for by marijuana advocates, Harmon's PR campaign hasn't

yielded much in the way of public support.

In a statewide poll from Dec. 3-7, 49 percent said they were opposed to Harmon's proposed changes to the medical-marijuana law. Thirty-two percent said they supported the proposed changes, and 20 percent were unsure.

Anthony Johnson of the local marijuana reform group Voter Power released the results of the poll to Willamette Weekly, a local Portland, Oregon newspaper. He says the phone survey of 500 people, with an error margin of plus or minus 4.4 percent, was done by Portland-based Grove Insight. Visit - <http://wwweek.com/wwire/?p=17584> - for more.

Contacts:

Madeline Martinez, Oregon NORML Executive Director, at (503) 239-6110, or Russ Belville, Oregon NORML Associate Director, at (503) 349-0395.

Anthony Johnson, Voter Power Political Director, at (503) 224.3051. For more on Voter Power visit - www.voterpower.org

<continued from "PTSD", pg 1> contacting MERCY about their condition and what can be done about it. Now with an upsurge of Iraq war veterans joining the need, the time is here to network folks together and add our impetus to the effort.

Currently, action is being taken to reconvene a panel to consider Administrative matter to add the condition to the Rules, Forms, etc. Yeah, we know, sounds like bureaucratic nonsense to us too.

MERCY will follow up as best we can and make sure the panel is convened or the people and reasons why are accounted for and published. What folks can do at this point is help gather Testimony for the Official Review, should it happen. This testimony will also be useful should Legislative and Initiative means become necessary.

SECONDARY CONDITIONS

Another thing that can be done to help add Conditions is for Patients to be sure to add any

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< continued from previous page > Secondary conditions that are also being treated with cannabis.

These are typically noted in the Comments section of the ATTENDING PHYSICIAN'S STATEMENT form. So be sure to note any other symptoms / conditions that you utilize cannabis for that are not one of the current official qualifying conditions. ATTENDING PHYSICIAN'S STATEMENT form is at >

<http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ommp/docs/newphys.pdf>

OMMP/ACMM Meetings

Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) meetings happen quarterly and as-needed, in Portland, Eugene and Salem. To discuss or propose changes one can attend these public meetings hosted by the OMMP.

Reasonable accommodations are provided as needed for individuals requesting assistive hearing devices, sign language interpreters or large-print materials. Individuals needing these types of accommodations should call the DHS Public Health Division, 971-673-1234, at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

The ACMM is an 11-member committee appointed by DHS Director Bruce Goldberg. It is charged with advising the director on administrative aspects of the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program, reviewing current and proposed administrative rules of the program, and providing annual input on the program's fee structure. Committee members are patients who possess registry identification cards, designated primary caregivers and advocates of the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act.

The Oregon Medical Marijuana Act was approved by voters in the Nov. 3, 1998, general election. The ACMM was created during the 2005 Legislative Session. The statutes governing the OMMP are ORS 475.300 to ORS 475.346. You can keep up on Public Meeting Notices by visiting the OMMP website at: <http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ommp/> or by Contacting the Program: **DHS/OMMP, P.O. Box 14450, Portland, Oregon 97293 - 0450**; Phone: **(971) 673-1226**, Fax: **(971) 673-1278**

NOTE: Due to the inclement weather and driving conditions many of the members were not able to attend the ACMM meeting scheduled for Monday, December 15th. The meeting was officially cancelled. **Next meet is January 26, 2009 * 10:00 am to 2:30 pm * ACMM / Quarterly Meeting * location: Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon Street, Room 1-A, Portland, OR 97232 * Next scheduled Quarterly Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Medical Marijuana (ACMM) hosted by the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) - visit >** http://mercycenters.org/events/Meet_OMMP.htm < for more info. * Also, you can Contact the Program at 971.673-1226 or by visiting the OMMP website at: <http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ommp/>

Voter Power Continues Dispensary Initiative in Oregon

Where's the Medicine? Too many sick and disabled patients are without medicine. Initiative Petition 28 will allow for licensed and regulated medical marijuana dispensaries and establish a program designed to ensure that patients in need have an adequate supply of medicine. The proposal will also generate revenue for the state and fund research.

Currently, there are four ways for patients to obtain medical marijuana:

1. Grow your own
2. Designate a grower
3. Buy on the black market
4. Have medicine donated from another patient

Their proposal, Initiative 28, creates a revenue-generating regulated medical marijuana supply system that increases choices and freedom for patients (while not taking away the choices currently available). Patient Resource Centers (PRCs) and dispensaries would be able to dispense medicine, plants and products to patients, providing patients with products and services that aren't normally available, such as edibles,

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They are now collecting signatures. You can download the signature sheet, sign it and mail it back to Voter Power. To help their efforts please contact the Portland office at 503-224-3051 or the Medford office at 541-245-6634.

Voter Power

3236 S.E. 50th Ave.

Portland, OR. 97206

<http://www.voterpower.org>

Stoney Girl Ultimate Grow Class

Stoney Girl Gardens has just released a full version of their grow class on-line and for free. Their entire class is now available on the web at: http://www.gro4me.com/who_we_are.htm. The class features 25 short, easy lessons containing writings, charts, photos, and movies.

Stoney Girl Gardens has decided to forego the sales and distribution of DVDs and publish the entire class for free on the Internet. It is their way of saying Happy New Year to all patients and caregivers wishing to know more about their methods of growing.

Features of Stoney Girl Ultimate Grow Class

On Line at Gro4me.com * No Log On Required * Free * Easy * Private * In Depth Class on Everything * Short Classes - 25 total classes * Created for Oregon Medical Marijuana Program * Available anytime, anywhere * View from the comfort of your home * Watch on your time schedule * View as many times as you like * Get Products delivered to your door

They need your help. They have published their work for free in hopes that more patients will have access to good information. They would like your support as possible in the following ways:

-**Display their Poster** in your clinic (attached) or anyplace that Patients are likely to be by.

-**Provide a link** on your website to their grow class as a resource for new patients needing to learn how to grow http://www.gro4me.com/who_we_are.htm

-**Invite them** to your TV show or give them a mention.

They hope you will take a look at their new on-line class and include them in your resource guide.

Europe: Germany Opens Door to Medical Marijuana

Beginning this week, a handful of patients in Germany have approval to start receiving medical marijuana from a Belgian firm that produces it for the Dutch government's medical marijuana program.

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PR: MEDICINAL CANNABIS NOW ALSO DISTRIBUTED EXCLUSIVELY BY FAGRON IN GERMANY (PDF file)
<http://hugin.info/138311/R/1275637/283966.pdf>

Following the success of medicinal cannabis in the Netherlands a number of other countries have shown an interest. In Germany too an increasing number of doctors are interested in prescribing medicinal cannabis. At the political level it has recently been decided there to make medicinal cannabis available for patients in special cases.

In the Netherlands a growing number of doctors know and appreciate the therapeutic properties of medicinal cannabis for various indications, including alleviating pain. Pharmacists in the Netherlands have provided cannabis to patients with a doctor's prescription since 1 September 2003. At that time the Dutch Office of Medicinal Cannabis appointed Fagron Nederland packer and logistics services provider of medicinal cannabis in the Netherlands.

Fagron Germany has an exclusive licence for the import and distribution of medicinal cannabis in Germany. This means that from today Fagron will be distributing medicinal cannabis in the Netherlands as well as Germany.

Source =

http://stopthedrugwar.org/chronicle/564/germany_arsus_fargron_medical_marijuana

Stanford Rolls to Victory at Medical Cannabis Awards

THCf's own Paul Stanford swept the annual Oregon Medical Cannabis Awards on Saturday night, winning the top three prizes for buds grown in his Felony Flats garden.

Stanford, who runs a growing chain of medical-marijuana clinics, took first place with his version of a strain known as Lemon Pledge, second with a strain called Train Wreck, and third with his Dynamite. He accepted his glass trophies in front of 100 people who attended the awards banquet at the Ambridge Events Center in Northeast Portland. Stanford also won an honorable mention for best flavor with his Green Lantern.

"I'm amazed and humbled," Stanford told WW after sweeping the field of 27 entries from Oregon's top medical cannabis growers. "We did a lot better job mixing our dirt this year."

Stanford has entered the contest before but has never broken into the top three. Top honors usually go to Long Creek grower David Verstoppen, who has won first place for the past three years with his Dynamite and Medicine Woman strains.

But this year Verstoppen had to settle for honorable mention for outstanding aroma.

"Competition is stiff," said a deflated Verstoppen, who made the five-hour drive from his Eastern Oregon home to attend the awards. "These growers out there, and the genetics, it's hard to say who's going to win." Source =

<http://wwweek.com/wwire/?p=17771>



In Loving Memory



Jayce "Mom" Jones

Mother, grandmother, medical cannabis patient, NORML person, American citizen, MERCY Team-mate

1947 – 2009

MERCY team member J. C. "Mom" Jones passed on from her bed at Salem Hospital where she had been admitted for complications due to her ongoing battle with cancer. She went to be with her Lord and Savior on Tuesday, January 6th, 2009 at 11:30am. Her mortal coil was 61 years young.

She was born Janet Carol McHarg in Chicago, Illinois on November 6th, 1947, the second of four children for Charles Austin McHarg, born in Amsterdam, NY and Margaret Baynard Lyon of Tientsin, China. Married to Rashid Usak of Montenegro, she spent some time in Tennessee before settling in Seattle, Washington.

Listen to me and understand this: A man is not defiled by what goes into his mouth, but by what comes out of it. -- Matthew 15:11

And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth. -- Genesis 1:29

While in Seattle, "Jayce" was a valued member of her church and community for many years. An active member of the Christian faith, she was the kind that felt led to share the good news of His amazing grace and love rather than wrath and judgment.

She had recently moved to Salem, Oregon where she was both a beneficiary of and volunteer activist in the cause of medical cannabis. "Mom" - as she came to be known at the Mercy Center - was a multiple-times victor in a battle with cancer, considered herself a living example of the gift from God that cannabis is, and felt it was her duty to share the good news with other sick and dying people. Networking her testimony on TV and with visitors to the center, helping with paperwork, answering phones and e-mails she built a steady fan-base with her kindness and caring.

She was also a proud member of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws and active in the cause of ending cannabis prohibition in general. (visit www.norml.org for more on being NORML)

We will miss her upbeat attitude and positive spirit, and yet, rejoice with the angels on her homecoming.

For nostalgias sake, folks can catch Mom giving the trade-mark sign-off following every MERCY-TV show.

Mercy TV is shown on cable in the Salem, Oregon area thru Capital Community Television, Channel 23. See it TUE @ 10:30pm, THU @ 2:00pm, FRI @ 11:30am - or- SAT @ 8:30pm. Visit - mercycenters.org/tv - for more on M-TV.

