



Justice Department Files Civil Asset Forfeiture Actions Against Harborside California State's Largest Medical Cannabis Dispensary

Attorney General Denies Reality of Raids

Oakland, CA: Federal prosecutors have [targeted Harborside Health Center](#) (HHC) in Oakland, as well as its sister facility in San Jose, for closure and civil asset forfeiture. In court papers filed last week by the US Attorney for the northern district of California, Melinda Haag, the federal government alleges that Harborside is operating in violation of federal law by providing cannabis to state-qualified patients.

In recent months, federal officials have forced the closure of several of the state's most prominent, longstanding, and well-respected medical cannabis operations -- including the [Marin Alliance for Medical Marijuana](#) (1996-2011), [Berkeley Patients Group](#) (2000-2012), and [El Camino Wellness](#) (2008-2012). The closures contradict recent statements made by US Attorney Eric Holder to Congress in June when he

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Schedule I Prohibitive Status For Pot is "Untenable," Scientists Say

San Diego, CA: The classification of cannabis and its organic compounds as [Schedule I](#) prohibited substances under federal law is [scientifically indefensible](#), according to a [review](#) published online in *The Open Neurology Journal*. <continued on page 5 >

Oregon Kills Medical Marijuana Deduction for Food Stamp Applicants

Oregon and two other states will no longer allow certain food stamp applicants to deduct medical marijuana expenses from their incomes after federal officials threatened the states with penalties. The U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a nationwide memo to regional directors of the food stamp program, also known as

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Massachusetts: Measure To Legalize State-Sanctioned Distribution Of Medical Cannabis Approved For November Ballot

Boston, MA: A statewide proposal that seeks to allow for the possession and state-licensed distribution of cannabis for therapeutic purposes will [appear](#) on the November electoral ballot.

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Study: Cannabis Use Has "No Lasting Residual Effects On Neurocognitive Performance"

Orlando, FL: The use of cannabis is not associated with "enduring negative effects" on the cognitive skills in moderate to heavy marijuana consumers, according to a [meta-analysis](#) to be published in the journal *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology*. A pair of researchers from the University of Central Florida, Department of Psychology reviewed various, peer-reviewed studies

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About MERCY – The Medical Cannabis Resource Center

The MERCY News Report is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit project to record and broadcast news, announcements and information about medical cannabis in Oregon, across America and around the World.

For more information about the MERCY News, contact us.

Via Snail Mail:

The MERCY News
1469 Capital St. NE,
Suite 100,
Salem, Ore., 97301
503.363-4588

E-mail:

Mercy_Salem@hotmail.com

Or our WWW page:

www.MercyCenters.org

Check it out!

MERCY On The Tube!



in Salem, Oregon area thru Capital Community Television, Channel 23. Call In – 503.588-6444 - on Friday at 7pm, or See us on Wednesdays at 06:30pm, Thursdays at 07:00pm, Fridays at 10:30pm and Saturdays at 06:00pm. Visit –

<http://mercycenters.org/tv/>

MERCY is a non-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.

Want to get your Card? Need Medicine Now?

Welcome to The Club! MERCY – the Medical Cannabis Resource Center hosts Mercy Club Meetings **every Wednesday** at - **1745 Capital Street NE, Salem, 97301** – from **7pm to 9pm** to help folks get their card, network patients to medicine, assist in finding a grower or getting to grow themselves, or ways and means to medicate along other info and resources depending on the issue. **visit – www.MercyCenters.org** - or Call **503.363-4588** for more.

The Doctor is In ... Salem! * MERCY is Educating

Doctors on signing for their Patients; Referring people to Medical Cannabis Consultations when their regular care physician won't sign for them; and listing all Clinics around the state in order to help folks Qualify for the OMMP and otherwise Get their Cards. For our Referral Doc in Salem, get your records to – **1745 Capital Street NE, Salem, 97301**, NOTE: There is a \$25 non-refundable deposit required. Transportation and Delivery Services available for those in need. For our Physician Packet to educate your Doctor, or a List of Clinics around the state, visit – **www.MercyCenters.org** - or Call **503.363-4588** for more.

Other Medical Cannabis Resource NetWork Opportunities for Patients as well as CardHolders-to-be. * whether Social meeting,

Open to public –or– Cardholders Only * visit: **<http://mercycenters.org/events/Meets.html>** ! Also Forums - a means to communicate and network on medical cannabis in Portland across Oregon and around the world. **A list of Forums, Chat Rooms, Bulletin Boards and other Online Resources for the Medical Cannabis Patient, CareGiver, Family Member, Patient-to-Be and Other Interested Parties. * Resources > Patients (plus) > Online > Forums** * Know any? Let everybody else know! Visit: **<http://mercycenters.org/orgs/Forums.html>** and Post It!

<continued from JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FILES CIVIL ASSET FORFEITURE ACTIONS AGAINST CALIFORNIA STATE'S LARGEST MEDICAL CANNABIS DISPENSARY, page 1 > [asserted](#) that Justice officials are solely targeting individuals who are "taking advantage of those state laws and going beyond what those states have authorized."

Commenting on her actions against Harborside Health Center, US Attorney Melinda Haag [said](#): "I ... find the need to consider actions regarding marijuana superstores such as Harborside. The larger the operation, the greater the likelihood that there will be abuse of the state's medical marijuana laws, and marijuana in the hands of individuals who do not have a demonstrated medical need." However, in contrast to Haag's public statement, the federal complaint cites no alleged violations of state law, instead claiming that HHC's actions violate the federal US Controlled Substances Act.

Speaking at a [press conference](#) last week, Harborside's Executive Director Steve DeAngelo said the operation intends to remain open despite federal threats. A recent [post](#) on the Harborside website states: "Harborside is not in imminent danger of closing. We intend to keep the commitment we made six years ago to provide our patients with safe access to the medicine their doctors have recommended, for as long as we possibly can."

This week, Congressional House lawmakers reintroduced legislation, [H.R. 6134 - The Truth in Trials Act](#) - which would allow federal defendants the opportunity to "introduce evidence (at trial) demonstrating that the marijuana-related activities for which the person stands accused were performed in compliance with state law regarding the medical use of marijuana." Fifteen Democrats and three Republicans are sponsoring the measure.

Commenting on the administration's latest actions, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said: "It is ironic that many of California's most prominent and well-respected medical cannabis dispensaries and related facilities - including [Oaksterdam University](#), Berkeley Patients Group, and Harborside Health Center - flourished under the George W. Bush administration. But they'll be lucky to survive President Barack Obama's first term."

Medical cannabis advocates intend to [protest](#) the administration's actions on Monday, July 23, during a Presidential fundraiser at the Fox Theater in downtown Oakland. *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. For additional information, please visit: <http://www.canorml.org>.*

Taking Action

Drug Enforcement Administration raids on dispensaries have become an unfortunate fact of life in medical cannabis states. So when Attorney General Eric Holder told Congress that the Department of Justice's policy toward medical marijuana is only to enforce against "individuals or organizations acting out of conformity with state law," we were skeptical.

But the gap between the administration's tolerant rhetoric and the harsh reality facing patients was made clear only four days after Holder's testimony. Sacramento, CA dispensary El Camino Wellness was raided - and like many other DEA targets, it had a long history of compliance with local laws.

In what represents a serious escalation in the federal attack on safe access to medical cannabis in California, Northern California US Attorney Melinda Haag has initiated property forfeiture proceedings against the landlord of Harborside Health Center's two locations in the Bay Area. [They need your help right now to push back on the federal assault.](#)

Harborside is fighting this cruel federal action, and so are we. On June 7th, Attorney General Eric Holder told Congress he will only enforce against dispensaries violating state law. In her statement on the raid, Ms. Haag admitted that Harborside was breaking no local laws. **Join us in demanding that Obama rein in this out-of-control prosecutor and respect state laws!**

Harborside is a model medical cannabis collective, enjoying the strong support of local and state officials. Serving 100,000 patients, founders Steve DeAngelo and David Weddingdress pioneered security, doctor verification, comprehensive wellness and cannabis testing services that are beginning to transform the distribution of cannabis - by putting the patients' needs first. Zealous prosecutor Haag needs to shut them down so that the drug warriors can continue to claim that cannabis has no medical value - by **destroying the evidence that Harborside has helped make tens of thousands of people's lives better.**

Attorney General Denies Reality of Raids

Attorney General Eric Holder faced tough questions before the House Judiciary Committee at the beginning of June over the crackdown on state medical cannabis programs. Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y. pressed Holder on why there have been more than 200 federal raids on state-authorized medical

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<continued from previous page> cannabis providers since 2009, given that as a presidential candidate in 2008, Barack Obama had promised that he wouldn't use "Justice Department resources to try to circumvent state laws on this issue."

While Holder acknowledged the Justice Department had pledged not to go after anyone acting within state law, he flatly denied that anyone in compliance has been targeted.



Holder claimed that the DOJ is only interested in people who have "come up with ways in which they are taking advantage of these state laws and going beyond that which the states have authorized." He insisted that "the only cases that we have been going after" are "those individuals (and) organizations that are acting out of conformity ... with state laws."

The DEA has conducted at least 200 raids and federal prosecutors have brought at least 60 indictments against medical cannabis providers in states that have authorized their operation.

"Either the Attorney General doesn't know what his people are doing, or he's a bald-faced liar," said ASA Executive Director Steph Sherer. "His prosecutors have threatened not just every landlord of a medical cannabis provider they can find but a host of state and local elected officials trying to implement the law."

Patients deserve better than double-speak from our nation's top law enforcement official. That is why we have partnered with the progressive advocacy group Courage Campaign to petition Eric Holder to stop raiding dispensaries in medical cannabis states. >>

[Sign the petition asking the Attorney General to be a man of his word at HolderStopTheRaids.com!](#) <<

ASA has produced a video telling the story of Eric Holder's testimony and subsequent raid in Sacramento, and how it impacts patients. The video will help explain to new allies why it matters to everyone that the administration's rhetoric doesn't match reality. Please share the petition with your friends, and help inform Americans about unjust federal enforcement in medical cannabis states. Visit -

<http://www.couragecampaign.org/page/s/tell-ag-holder-end-the-raids> - and tell everybody!

If you haven't signed [the Petition asking Holder to be a man of his word](#) and stop the raids of state-permitted cooperatives and collectives, please do so

now. If you live in the region, you can call Obama's Bay Area campaign headquarters and ask that he reign in or remove US Attorney Melinda Haag. **Call 510 863 9632 to reach the campaign.** Remember to be brief and courteous.

Help Protect Federal Medical Marijuana Defendants & Property Owners

US Representative Sam Farr (Dem-CA) has just introduced the "Truth in Trials Act" (HR 6134), legislation that will finally allow medical cannabis defendants a fair trial in federal court. Americans for Safe Access (ASA) is committed to promoting this bill and protecting the rights of patients, cultivators, and providers; but we need your help right now to do it. Can you take a minute to ask your US Representative to co-sponsor and support this bill?

HR 6134 allows people facing federal prosecution for medical cannabis-related offenses to introduce evidence showing they were in compliance with their state's medical cannabis laws. It is hard to believe that this is not allowed right now, but federal judges do not allow evidence about state laws in federal court. That leaves federal defendants with little or no defense - even in cases where they obeyed the state law! That is unfair, and if adopted, the "Truth in Trails Act" will change it.

The bill will create an "affirmative defense" for federal medical cannabis defendants. That is crucial for the 100 million Americans who live in the seventeen states and the District of Columbia where medical cannabis is already legal. The bill will also protect law-abiding property owners who rent to medical cannabis tenants. They have recently been targeted for civil asset forfeiture cases by the US Department of Justice and also have no defense under current law.

ASA is uniquely poised to take up the battle for the "Truth in Trials Act" in Congress. This bill is about fundamental fairness and the integrity of our courts. We can fight that fight and win, even if it takes a long time to do it. But we need help from people like you to make it happen. Please send a message to your US Representative right now, and then make a special donation to support ASA's federal advocacy work.

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Thanks in advance for doing your part. For more info contact: Steph Sherer, Executive Director, **Americans for Safe Access * 1322 Webster Street, Ste. 402 * Oakland, CA 94612** by phone: **510-251-1856 * -or- email info@AmericansForSafeAccess.org* - or- visit: www.AmericansForSafeAccess.org**

You can take an active part in the movement by following ASA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and sharing ASA Executive Director Steph Sherer's [Huffington Post blog](#). This summer, they plan to turn up the heat on the Obama administration to stop the raids. [Join or donate today](#) to help support nationwide actions to demand respect for state medical cannabis laws. More links:

Download [Americans for Safe Access v. Eric Holder](#) ; Download [Americans for Safe Access v. Drug Enforcement Administration](#) ; Download the [reply brief in ASA v. DEA](#) ; Download ASA's Fact Sheet on the "Truth in Trials Act" > [http://safeaccessnow.org/downloads/Truth In Trials Fact Sheet.pdf](http://safeaccessnow.org/downloads/Truth_In_Trials_Fact_Sheet.pdf) ; and/or Download a copy of Sam Farr's "Truth in Trials Act" > [http://safeaccessnow.org/downloads/Truth in Trials Act 2012.pdf](http://safeaccessnow.org/downloads/Truth_in_Trials_Act_2012.pdf) - and Spread The Word!

<continued from SCHEDULE I PROHIBITIVE STATUS FOR POT "UNTENABLE," SCIENTISTS SAY, page 1 > Investigators at the University of California at San Diego and the University of California, Davis reviewed the results of several recent clinical trials assessing the safety and efficacy of inhaled or vaporized cannabis. They conclude: "Based on evidence currently available the Schedule I classification is not tenable; it is not accurate that cannabis has no medical value, or that information on safety is lacking."

Researchers added, "It is true cannabis has some abuse potential, but its profile more closely resembles drugs in Schedule III (where codeine and dronabinol are listed)."

Under federal law, Schedule I controlled substances are defined as possessing "a high potential for abuse, ... no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and there is a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug or other substance under medical supervision." Heroin and Methaqualone (Quaaludes) are examples of other Schedule I substances. Cocaine and

methamphetamine are classified as schedule II controlled substances.

In 2011, the Obama administration - via the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) - formally [denied](#) a nine-year-old administrative [petition](#) filed by NORML and a [coalition](#) of public interest organizations calling on the agency to initiate hearings to reassess the present classification of marijuana as a Schedule I controlled substance without any 'accepted medical use in treatment.' In her denial of the petition, DEA administrator Michele Leonhart [alleged](#): "[T]here are no adequate and well-controlled studies proving (marijuana's) efficacy; the drug is not accepted by qualified experts. ... At this time, the known risks of marijuana use have not been shown to be outweighed by specific benefits in well-controlled clinical trials that scientifically evaluate safety and efficacy."

Last month, Ms. Leonhart [testified](#) before Congress that she believed that heroin and marijuana posed similar threats to the public's health [because](#), in her opinion, "all illegal drugs are bad."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Medical Marijuana: Clearing Away the Smoke," is available online at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3358713/>.

<continued from OREGON KILLS MEDICAL MARIJUANA DEDUCTION FOR FOOD STAMP APPLICANTS, page 1 > the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, after The Oregonian contacted the agency about the practice last week. The newspaper surveyed 17 states that permit marijuana for medicinal use and found three "Oregon, New Mexico and Maine" allowed certain applicants to deduct the cost of the drug from their income when applying for the benefit.

In determining whether a family is poor enough to receive food stamps, Oregon allows applicants to deduct medical expenses from their incomes. Since voters legalized the use of marijuana for medicinal use in 1998, the state has counted the cost associated with obtaining medical marijuana as a qualifying medical expense. Only elderly or permanently disabled Oregonians who qualify for Social Security Disability Insurance could claim the deductions.

Although the change is expected to affect a small percentage of food stamp recipients, the

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<continued from previous page> government's move was a symbolic blow for medical marijuana advocates. "It's a sad day when we have to see this kind of retreat based on what appears to be federal pressure and federal intimidation," said Kris Hermes, a spokesman for Americans for Safe Access, the country's largest medical marijuana advocacy group. "It makes one wonder when the federal government is going to come around and realize this is indeed a public health issue and address the problem accordingly. It's a problem only in the sense that the federal government is creating the problem."

The Oregon Department of Human Services on Tuesday received the memo from the USDA ordering states to discontinue the deduction. The memo states that under federal law, marijuana "has no currently accepted medical use and cannot be prescribed for medicinal purposes." "States that currently allow for the deduction of medical marijuana must cease this practice immediately and make any necessary corrections to their state policy manuals and instructions," wrote Lizbeth Silbermann, director of the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service's program development division.

"States that are not in compliance may face penalties for any overissuance of SNAP benefits," she wrote. Gene Evans, spokesman for the Oregon Department of Human Services, said the agency forwarded the memo to the Oregon Justice Department for review. The department advised the agency to drop the practice. The Department of Human Services on Thursday told agency staff that the state will stop allowing medical marijuana deductions on food stamp applications.

New Mexico and Maine officials also told The Oregonian on Thursday that they, too, have heard from federal authorities and will no longer allow the deductions. In an email to The Oregonian Thursday, Erinn Kelley-Siel, the director of the Oregon Department of Human Services, acknowledged that out-of-pocket medical expenses are a challenge for low-income elderly and disabled food stamp recipients.

"While we recognize that Oregon voters have declared marijuana to be medicine, this new guidance from the federal government sets clear direction on allowable medical expenses under federal law," she wrote. She said officials will suspend approval of any new medical marijuana deductions on food stamp applications; correct the state policy manual to reflect the change; and provide new instructions for staff and food stamp recipients about medical marijuana deductions. She said the agency also will identify all recipients

who previously submitted medical marijuana deductions on their paperwork and "work with them to make corrections to their eligibility and benefits." In Oregon, the number of people eligible for the deductions was small. About 33,000 food stamp recipients are elderly and qualified for social security disability insurance -- roughly 8 percent of the total food stamp caseload. It's not known how many of them are medical marijuana patients, but Evans said such cases were not common. *For source, visit - [Oregon Kills Medical Marijuana Deduction for Food Stamp Applicants](#) - by Noelle Crombie, Posted: 7/13/2012, [oregonlive.com](#)*

<continued from MASSACHUSETTS: MEASURE TO LEGALIZE STATE-SANCTIONED DISTRIBUTION OF MEDICAL CANNABIS APPROVED FOR NOVEMBER BALLOT, page 1 >

A spokesperson for the Massachusetts Secretary of State's office reported this week that initiative proponents, the [Massachusetts Patient Advocacy Alliance](#), had collected sufficient signatures from registered voters to qualify the [measure](#) for the 2012 ballot.



If passed by voters this fall, the measure would eliminate statewide criminal and civil penalties related to the possession and use of up to a 60-day supply of cannabis by qualified patients. It would also require the state to create and regulate up to 35 facilities to produce and dispense cannabis to approved patients. Individual patients will also be permitted to privately cultivate limited amounts of cannabis if they are unable to access a state-authorized dispensary.

The Massachusetts Medical Society, the state's largest doctor's organization, is [campaigning against](#) the proposal.

If approved, Massachusetts will become the [18th state](#) since 1996 to allow for the limited legalization of marijuana for therapeutic purposes. Several other New England states - Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, and Vermont - already allow for the use of medical cannabis.

The results of a recent statewide [survey](#) by the firm Public Policy Polling reported that Massachusetts' voters favor the measure, with 53 percent of respondents indicating that they will vote 'yes' on the initiative versus only 35 percent who said that they would vote 'no.'

In 2008, 65 percent of voters [approved](#) a ballot

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<continued from previous page> initiative decriminalizing marijuana possession offenses.

Voters in at least three other states - Colorado, Montana, and Washington - will [also be deciding](#) on marijuana-specific ballot measures this November. Montana voters will decide on [Initiative Referendum 124](#), which seeks to [repeal](#) amendments enacted by lawmakers in 2011 to [restrict](#) the state's 2004, voter approved medical cannabis law. Colorado voters will decide on [Amendment 64](#), which would immediately allow for the possession of up to one ounce of marijuana and/or the cultivation of up to six cannabis plants by those persons age 21 and over. Longer-term, the measure seeks to establish regulations governing the commercial production and distribution of marijuana by licensed retailers. In Washington, voters will decide on [Initiative 502](#), which seeks legalize and to regulate the production and sale of limited amounts of marijuana for adults.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.masspatients.org/site/>. NORML has additional details about this and other 2012 ballot proposals at its newly redesigned 'Smoke the Vote' website here:

<http://norml.org/about/smoke-the-vote>.

<continued from **STUDY: CANNABIS USE HAS "NO LASTING RESIDUAL EFFECTS ON NEUROCOGNITIVE PERFORMANCE"**, page 1 > assessing whether cannabis use is associated with lasting adverse residual effects on cognition. They reported that cannabis chronic consumption may be associated with "small but significant" effects on neurocognitive skills for limited periods of time lasting beyond the immediate hours of intoxication. By contrast, authors found "no evidence of lasting effects on cognitive performance due to cannabis use" in subjects whose abstention period was at least 25 days.

Researchers concluded: "As hypothesized, the meta-analysis conducted on studies evaluating users after at least 25 days of abstention found no residual effects on cognitive performance. ... These results fail to support the idea that heavy cannabis use may result in long-term, persistent effects on neuropsychological functioning."

Clinical trial [data](#) published in 2011 in the journal *Addiction* similarly reported "no significant differences associated with cannabis consumption" on various measures of memory and intelligence in over 2,000 self-identified marijuana consumers and non-users over an eight-year period. Authors of the study concluded, "[T]he adverse impacts of cannabis

use on cognitive functions either appear to be related to pre-existing factors or are reversible in this community cohort even after potentially extended periods of use." *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Residual effects of cannabis use on neurocognitive performance after prolonged abstinence: A meta-analysis," will appear in *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology*.*

Cannabis May Mitigate Traumatic Memories In Patients With PTSD

Hannover, Germany: The use of cannabis and cannabinoids likely mitigates symptoms associated with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), according to a [review](#) of clinical and preclinical evidence published online in the scientific journal *Drug Testing and Analysis*.

An international team of investigators from Germany, the United States, and the United Kingdom reported that the use of cannabis "dramatically reduced" PTSD symptoms in a single 19-year-old male patient. Authors reported: "In the case report presented in this review, the patient displayed a grave pathology involving anxiety, dissociation and heavy flashbacks as a consequence of PTSD. ... The patient stated that he found cannabis more useful than lorazepam. ... It is evident from the case history that the patient experienced reduced stress, less involvement with flashbacks and a significant decrease of anxiety."

Authors also cited "accumulating clinical and preclinical evidence that cannabinoids may mitigate some major symptoms associated with PTSD."

They concluded: "Cannabis may dampen the strength or emotional impact of traumatic memories through synergistic mechanisms that might make it easier for people with PTSD to rest or sleep and to feel less anxious and less involved with flashback memories. ... Evidence is increasingly accumulating that cannabinoids might play a role in fear extinction and anti-depressive effects. It is concluded that further studies are warranted in order to evaluate the therapeutic potential of cannabinoids in PTSD."

Last year, administrators at the United States Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) [blocked](#) investigators at the University of Arizona at Phoenix from conducting an FDA-approved, placebo-

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<continued from **CANNABIS MAY MITIGATE TRAUMATIC MEMORIES IN PATIENTS WITH PTSD**, previous page> controlled [clinical trial](#) to evaluate the use of cannabis in 50 patients with PTSD.

Under federal law, any clinical trial evaluations involving cannabis must receive NIDA approval because the agency is the [only source](#) of legal cannabis for FDA-approved research purposes. In 2010, a spokesperson for the agency [told The New York Times](#): "[O]ur focus is primarily on the negative consequences of marijuana use. We generally do not fund research focused on the potential beneficial medical effects of marijuana." *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Mitigation of post-traumatic stress symptoms by Cannabis resin: A review of the clinical and neurobiological evidence," appears online in the journal Drug Testing and Analysis.*

Patient Politicians; Cannabis Candidates in the News

Pro cannabis candidates (Cannidates? Canndidates?) are gaining ground as polls indicate growing support for legalization. We even have medical cannabis (marijuana) patients running for office these days.

In Kentucky, Sen. Perry Clark, D-Louisville, is trying to legalize medicinal marijuana thru the General Assembly. A previous bill failed in this year's session. Clark's latest attempt is called the Gatewood Galbraith Memorial Medicinal Marijuana Act, and would allow patients suffering from various afflictions to get prescriptions for the now-prohibited drug, said to relieve myriad ills. The senator revealed he sometimes smokes marijuana for relief from chronic back pain and said he'll apply for a legal permit if his measure passes. [Read More](#) <<

Locally, Jim Klahr is trying for the representative seat in District 1. Mr. Klahr is a medical cannabis patient, as well as an advocate and activist, who serves on the Advisory Committee for Medical Marijuana (ACMM) to the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP). District 1 is comprised of all of Curry and Coos County, with slivers of Josephine and Douglas counties.

As a Volunteer, he educates cardholders of the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program to become self reliant and advocates to the mainstream medical

field on the properties of Cannabis as a non-toxic herb. He has been an Activist for the medicinal use of Cannabis since 1997 and he was Co-Chief Petitioner of Measure 74.

A statement on his [Ballotpedia](#) page sez - "It's time to care more for people than money. Corporatism has no place in democracy." This apparently resonates with his proposed constituents, according to Democratic Underground -

"This is an opportunity to actually bring change to Oregon! Jim is one of those folks who does not have big 'dirty money' coming in to support the status quo.

Jim is anything but status quo. He wants to Progress. He believes in taking Oregon forward for Real Justice, Health Care, Job Creation, Womens Reproductive Rights, Marriage Equality, Education, Pro-Union and so much more. Jim is one of those folks who has watched Oregon politics for more than a decade and has decided the one way to make change is to create change via legislation. Oregon's Dist 1 is very fortunate to have him. Jim understands the issues Dist 1 faces both financially and environmentally." writes a blogger at <http://www.democraticunderground.com/1073179>

To help -or- for more info, contact: **Jim Greig; Co-Director, Jim Klahr for Legislator at 541 654 0011 * www.VoteJimKlahr.com * Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/NcFXrj> * Twitter: @JimKlahr * <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/vote-jim-klahr> * -or- Campaign Phone:(541) 469-4380 -or- visit: www.jimklahr4rep.com**

Nationally, folks have Gary Johnson, former goverenor of New Mexico, as an option to represent them as president. He is the Libertarian party candidate. There are good reasons you might want to be giving Johnson some thought. He's the only candidate willing to violate the politicians' version of don't-ask-don't-tell and say out loud what they all know, that the war on drugs is a useless waste of money.

in New Mexico, where Johnson was governor from 1995 to 2003. Though the state is overwhelmingly Democratic, Johnson won a solid victory with his platform of cutting taxes and reining in spending. And in spite of facing a legislature that was two-thirds Democratic, he delivered, vetoing 750 bills and thousands of line-item expenditures. He easily won reelection, and when he left office the state had a \$1 billion budget surplus. *Learn more >> Gary Johnson: It's not just a two-man race - <http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/07/16/2898206/gary-johnson-its-not-just-a-two.html>*