

Dear Connecticut Legislator:

February 24, 2007

**Please vote no on HB 6715.** Don't participate in this hoax that, when it hits the evening news, every 12-year-old in Connecticut hears, "Marijuana must be good for you! They're saying on the news, 'Marijuana 's medicine!'" Or, as in the pro-drug book for children, DPA's "It's Just A Plant," a little girl appearing to be around 5 years old, says, "I'm going to grow some marijuana at home."

Tragically, our nation's citizens are being misled by groups like the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA), the Marijuana Policy Project (MPP), and the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), and similar groups, to believe the biggest "medical lie" since Laetrile!

You may remember that Laetrile was touted as a treatment/cure for cancer. It was a very long time before it was revealed that **Laetrile was nothing more than ground Apricot pits!** This hoax delayed proper treatment for many who believed the myth.

And there was Thalidomide for which the US FDA denied approval. Other countries weren't so fortunate causing hundreds of babies to be born without limbs. It is for our protection that the FDA is designated the ONLY US agency that can approve medicines. **All must be declared safe and effective!** Marijuana is neither. **FDA has not approved smoked marijuana for any condition or disease Indication.<sup>1</sup> Americans don't VOTE on medicines!**

Dr. Nora Volkov, Director, National Institutes on Drug Abuse testified before Congress last year that: "Even if some remote possibility ever existed that marijuana could be beneficial in some treatment, **It still could not be prescribed because smoking is not a safe delivery system.** Therefore, it would not meet the 'safety' requirement of the FDA."

Other agencies that reject the idea of **"Weed-O-Therapy"** include:

The National Institutes of Health, The American Medical Association, The American Cancer Society, The American Academy of Pediatrics, The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, The British Medical Association. Even the Institute of Medicine, whose report legalization advocates like to quote, finally admitted: **"It was true that a pro-legalization group, the Marijuana Policy Project, organized the attendance of many of the patients who testified "for medicalization of marijuana at IOM hearings.....and one felt some responsibility for such one-sidedness."**<sup>2</sup> It was, by then, too late!

The IOM's conclusions with respect to glaucoma are particularly noteworthy. IOM found that smoked marijuana is largely ineffective as a treatment for the disease. There are six classes of approved drugs and multiple surgical techniques available to treat glaucoma that effectively slow its progression.<sup>3</sup> There are 18 layers of better medications to treat cancer. After similar conclusions, NIH stopped their studies on glaucoma.

Add to all the above the fact that, today, more young people are in treatment for marijuana than for all other drugs, including alcohol, and that 13 major mental health agencies recently signed a 1/2 page ad published **nationally that links marijuana (now many times stronger than in the 70's) to depression, increased thoughts of suicide, and regular marijuana smokers having increased risk of schizophrenia later in life.**<sup>4</sup>

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Joyce Nalepka has been involved in drug prevention at the national level since 1979. She served as President of Nancy Reagan's National Federation of Parents during the Reagan Administration.

<sup>1</sup> FDA Statement, April 20, 2006, Inquires FDA Press Office 301-827-6242

<sup>2</sup> IOM Study Co-Director, John Benson, MD, August 19, 1999 letter to American College of Physicians

<sup>3</sup> Smoked marijuana is not medicine, DEA, April 20, 2005

<sup>4</sup> Marijuana and your teen's mental health, www.filipino.thcantidrug.com