

Dear John Lively,

This has no bearing, but we voted for you.

We feel we need to preface our letter. The purpose of this letter is to support the Oregon proposed legislation of House Bill 3371. We are a professional working class couple. We have walked this beautiful earth for over 60 years now. We have never been as passionate or motivated on a subject before to physically go to political meeting and allow ourselves to campaign openly as we are for the decriminalization of Cannabis and Hemp. We will be in Salem on April 2, 2013.

We have done extensive research to make sure our opinions were balanced.

In a recent study by the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA), they have found Cannabis is safe and effective treatment for the symptoms of Cancer, AIDS, MS, Pain, Glaucoma, Epilepsy, and other conditions. Yet the Federal government is still denying any benefits of Cannabis. Other studies have found success in the treatment of Autism.

Why punish the patient? Please visit the White House website on present views and policies.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/federal-laws-pertaining-to-marijuana>

FACT: in 2009 an estimated 15,000 people died from alcohol abuse.

FACT: 1 out of 5 people die each year from cigarettes.

FACT: 0 have died from marijuana

FACT: Money spent- in 2010 US Federal government spent over 15 BILLION dollars on the war on drugs at a rate of \$500 per second. State and local governments spent another 25 BILLION dollars.

Source: By Jeffrey A. Miron and Katherine Waldock September 27, 2010. To much money spent, in our personal opinions. <http://www.cato.org/publications/white-paper/budgetary-impact-ending-drug-prohibition>

10 Facts About Marijuana as published by the Drug Policy Alliance

Please refer to this website for detailed information on the following.

<http://www.drugpolicy.org/drug-facts/10-facts-about-marijuana>

Marijuana is a plant containing a psychoactive chemical, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), in its leaves, buds and flowers. Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug, with forty-two percent of American adults reporting that they have used it.

Despite the fact that marijuana's effects are less harmful than those of most other drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, it is the most common drug that people are arrested for possessing. **U.S. marijuana policy is unique among American criminal laws in being enforced so widely and harshly**, yet deemed unnecessary by such a substantial portion of the population.

In our personal opinions, marijuana use is going to continue, regardless of the war on drugs.

Fact #1: Most marijuana users never use any other illicit drug.

Fact #2: Most people who use marijuana do so occasionally

Fact #3: Claims about increases in marijuana potency are vastly overstated. In addition, potency is not related to risk of dependence or health impacts.

Fact #4: Marijuana has not been shown to cause mental illness.

Fact #5: Marijuana use has not been shown to increase risk of cancer.

Fact #6: Marijuana has been proven helpful for treating the symptoms of a variety of medical conditions.

Fact #7: Marijuana use rates in the Netherlands are similar to those in the U.S. despite very different policies. (Other studies show 11 years ago Portugal decriminalized drugs, the success is outstanding.)

Fact #8: Marijuana has not been shown to cause long-term cognitive impairment.

Fact #9: There is no compelling evidence that marijuana contributes substantially to traffic accidents and fatalities.

Fact #10: More than 800,000 people are arrested for marijuana each year, the vast majority of them for simple possession.

Stop this business of criminalization. Nobody is a productive tax payer in this system.

Get additional facts at the Drug War Facts website.

<http://www.drugwarfacts.org/cms/#sthash.n2rCf8kO.dpbs>

Enough is ENOUGH! Facts and people's lives and medical needs as well as financial liberties are our motivation behind lending our voices to **STOP THE INSANITY!** Decriminalize Cannabis and Hemp. Use the taxation to fund our schools, balance our budget and allow our limited police resources to focus their time and energy on heinous crimes, drinking and driving and other public safety issues. Allow for Oregon to be one of the 1st states to step forth and legalize it, then together with the other states create a movement to pressure the Federal government to remove Cannabis from a Class 1 drug.

We are NOT advocating for minors to have access. We ask for it to be on the same restrictions as Alcohol and tobacco.

We ask the State of Oregon to allow adult American's to make these personal choices. We ask they also be allowed to make decisions regarding their medicine choices as promised in our Declaration of Independence, Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. Health is Happiness.

Gerald and Helen Williams

Springfield, OR 97477