

## What Our Representatives Say About Medical Marijuana

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What Our Representatives Say About Medical Marijuana Rep. Juan Escobar (D) District 43 Counties Represented: Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kleberg, Kenedy, Willacy, and part of Cameron &ldquo;l&rsquo;ve spent 30 years in law enforcement, I&rsquo;ve been reading a lot on this topic, and it&rsquo;s really amazing what I hear.&rdquo; &ldquo;After spending many years fighting drugs I was very reluctant, it has taken me a lot of soul searching really to do this and I come from a democratic district that is very conservative&hellip; it&rsquo;s hard for me to actually support something like this but after hearing so much testimony&hellip;this is something we have to look at for the benefit of mankind.&rdquo; Representative Escobar is a former Senior Special Agent with the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, an undercover unit of the Department of Justice that specialized in illegal drug interdiction work. His remarks were made during the 79th legislative session on April 5, 2005 during the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee hearing on HB 658, an affirmative defense medical marijuana bill.

Rep. Terry Keel (R ) District 47 &ndash; Travis &ldquo;There is more documentation than you could ever read and studies that have documented the positive effect of this particular drug (marijuana).&rdquo;"I think it&rsquo;s time for Texas to recognize that it makes no sense to pick this particular drug out and say this drug, which admittedly, admittedly, is less addictive than many other drugs, is going to be the one drug that we are going to have zero tolerance for and not even allow a doctor to use in his arsenal for pain relief or for treatment of a bona fide medical condition.&rdquo; Representative Terry Keel, a former Travis County Sheriff and Prosecutor, Criminal Jurisprudence Committee Hearing 77th Legislative Session on HB 315 - February 27, 2001. Rep. Elliott Naishtat (D) District 49 - Travis &ldquo;If you think about it, doctors today can prescribe morphine but not marijuana. That doesn&rsquo;t make much sense. I think that once people understand, and in particular those in the legislature, that there is a proper use for marijuana in relation to bona fide medical conditions, I think we will see a change amongst the people of Texas and certainly the legislature.&rdquo; Representative Elliott Naishtat, a Travis County Democrat who is a member of the human services committee. Comments were made on Fox News March 2, 2004.