

Who Says Marijuana is a Medicine?

Sunday, 08 October 2006

Last Updated Wednesday, 29 November 2006

Who Says Marijuana is a Medicine?

- Many American MDs who have recommended it to their patients
 - The 11 states that have legalized medical marijuana for their citizens, including: Alaska, Hawaii, California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Colorado, Vermont, Maine and Rhode Island
 - 80% of the public believes that it's OK to dispense marijuana for medical purposes according to a TIME/CNN poll in October 2002
 - In addition to the American Nurses Association, 13 other state nursing associations, including the Texas Nurses Association
 - 36 state legislatures since 1976
 - 48% of oncologists in a 1990 poll of 2430 cancer specialists by Dr. Mark Keiman and Richard Doblin
 - The U.S. government, which provides marijuana to patients through the Compassionate Investigational New Drug program of the FDA
 - Canada, which legalized it on July 31, 2001
 - England, which has licensed Dr. Geoffrey Guy to conduct clinical trials on several different chemicals extracts of cannabis
 - The FDA - in the form of Marinol (Dranobinol) approved as a Schedule III drug
 - Over 5,000 years of historical medicinal use, including documented medicinal use in the U.S. since 1839
- Source: Dr. David Bearman, M.D., Medical Director of Zona Seca in California and nationally recognized expert in Drug Abuse Treatment and Prevention

Other notable individuals and organizations that have endorsed the use of medical marijuana include:

The American Public Health Association, the oldest and largest organization of public health professionals in the world, passed a resolution urging lawmakers to make marijuana legally available as a therapeutic agent in November 1995.

The DEA's Administrative Law Judge, Francis Young concluded in September 1988, "In strict medical terms marijuana is far safer than many foods we commonly consume. For example, eating 10 raw potatoes can result in a toxic response. By comparison, it is physically impossible to eat enough marijuana to induce death. Marijuana in its natural form is one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man. By any measure of rational analysis marijuana can be safely used within the supervised routine of medical care

Source: US Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Agency, "In the Matter of Marijuana Rescheduling Petition," (Docket #86-22), (September 6, 1988), p. 57. Lynn Nofziger, former White House director of communication and chief speechwriter for President Ronald Reagan wrote, "A doctor should have every possible medication - including marijuana - in his armamentarium. If doctors can prescribe morphine and other addictive medicines, it makes no sense to deny marijuana to sick and dying patients when it can be provided on a carefully controlled prescription basis." Source: Foreword to the book Marijuana Rx: The Patient's Fight for Medicinal Pot

Jerome P. Kassirer, M.D., wrote in The New England Journal of Medicine, January 30th 1997 edition, "I believe that a federal policy that prohibits physicians from alleviating suffering by prescribing marijuana for seriously ill patients is misguided, heavy-handed, and inhumane."