

The Dragonflyer

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Working for Safe, Legal Access: Lobbying in Sacramento

Over 100 people worked together in Sacramento on August 12th to educate and influence state legislators on behalf of medical marijuana and its inevitable legalization. Who will shape state medical marijuana policy? What will the “tax and regulate” look like? The answers to these questions will in part be determined by the pressure that we in the medical cannabis community exert on those who pass legislation and make the laws.

Americans for Safe Access (ASA) hosted California Summer Lobby Day, sponsored by Californians to Regulate Medical Marijuana, a statewide coalition of patients, cultivators, industry workers, health care professionals and other stakeholders who support sensible regulation of medical canna-

bis in California. There are now 20 states that have legalized medical marijuana. Public opinion is changing and we may see an end to targeting marijuana in the U.S. government’s wasteful and unjust “war on drugs.” (See page 2 for changes in mainstream media coverage.)

This year’s California Summer Lobby Day included meetings with legislators or staff members in at least 26 legislative offices. As a result of our pressure, Senator Ellen Corbett withdrew SB 648 that would have restricted where legal patients can use vaporizers. Keep track of California legislation by going online to leginfo.ca.gov/. Citizen voices do count! ♦



Dragonfly and other North Coast patients join lobbying effort

Voter Initiative Could Hold Off Feds

California is way behind the rest of the country when it comes to legalizing marijuana – medical or recreational. Now the foot-dragging in Sacramento may be trumped by California voters.

A new initiative, called the California Cannabis Hemp Initiative 2014 (CCHI 2014), will be on the November 2014 ballot – IF we collect 504,760 signatures statewide by February 24th 2014. (Look for the initiative to sign at Dragonfly and

other dispensaries nearby)

The initiative would decriminalize the possession, use, cultivation and sale of marijuana and hemp. It requires a case-by-case review for persons currently charged with or convicted of non-violent marijuana offenses, for possible sentence modification, amnesty, or immediate release from prison, jail, parole, or probation. And it requires case-by-case review of applications to have records of these charges and convictions erased. Cont. p. 5

Cannabis & Brain Cancer



Amanda N. is 25 years old and lives in northern California. For four years she battled 4th stage glioblastoma – a brain tumor. However, two recent MRIs indicate that she is now clear of cancer. Her medicine? Medical Marijuana in a non-smokeable form. The following story was based on an interview conducted in July 2013 at Amanda’s home.

In March, 2009, Santa Rosa Junior College student Amanda N fell ill. After two weeks of feeling terrible headaches, and even experiencing a seizure, Amanda’s primary care physician referred her to an oncologist. She was diagnosed with a 4th stage glioblastoma – the most aggressive form of brain cancer. Cont. on p. 3

CNN Chief Doc Flips on Pot

In 2008, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, CNN Chief Medical Correspondent, wrote an article opposing medical marijuana. Recently, Dr. Gupta produced a documentary called "Weed" in which he makes the case for medical cannabis. The following is taken from the article that he wrote on August 8, 2013 for the CNN website. He starts by apologizing for his position five years ago.

I apologize because I didn't look hard enough, until now. I didn't look far enough. I didn't review papers from smaller labs in other countries doing some remarkable research, and I was too dismissive of the loud chorus of legitimate patients whose symptoms improved on cannabis.

Instead, I lumped them with the high-visibility malingerers, just looking to get high. I mistakenly believed the Drug Enforcement Agency listed marijuana as a schedule 1 substance because of sound scientific proof. Surely, they must have quality reasoning as to why marijuana is in the category of the most dangerous drugs that have "no accepted

medicinal use and a high potential for abuse."

They didn't have the science to support that claim, and I now know that when it comes to marijuana neither of those things are true. It doesn't have a high potential for



Dr. Sanjay Gupta

abuse, and there are very legitimate medical applications. In fact, sometimes marijuana is the only thing that works. Take the case of Charlotte Figi, who I met in Colorado. She started having seizures soon after birth. By age 3, she was having 300 a week, despite being on seven different medications. Medical marijuana has calmed her

brain, limiting her seizures to 2 or 3 per month. ...

Most frightening to me is that someone dies in the United States every 19 minutes from a prescription drug overdose, mostly accidental. Every 19 minutes. It is a horrifying statistic. As much as I searched, I could not find a documented case of death from marijuana overdose.

Looking forward, I am especially intrigued by studies like those in Spain and Israel looking at the anti-cancer effects of marijuana and its components. I'm intrigued by the neuro-protective study by Lev Meschoulam in Israel, and research in Israel and the United States on whether the drug might help alleviate symptoms of PTSD. I promise to do my part to help, genuinely and honestly, fill the remaining void in our knowledge. ◇

Our New Menu!

Now Available at Dragonfly Wellness

Healthy Young Starts!

- ◆ High CBD, Pure Sativa and Indica strains, as well as Hybrids) available in store or by order.
- ◆ AC/DC plants: \$8; Others: \$15

A LARGE variety of Indoor, Outdoor, Greenhouse Varieties of Flower

- ◆ High CBD, Sativa, Indica, Hybrids, including pre-rolls; \$8/g – \$13/g

Medibles (CBD, Indica) \$8-\$15

- ◆ Caramels, chocolates, fruit bars, brownies, suckers, marinara sauce, butter, juice, Kombucha

\$1 and up

- ◆ Soaps, Salves, Lotions, seeds, oils, Tinctures, dry leaf capsules, glass pipes, locally harvested seaweed, glass pipes, Lavender Motion Wellness oil, Chinese Herbs, and more.

Holistic Practices that Help you Thrive!

- ◆ Acupuncture, Tai' Chi, Belly Dance, Yoga, Bowen, BioSet, Lymphatic and Deep Tissue Massage.

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NBC News July 9, 2013

Check out the news story on the positive effects of cannabis for children with epilepsy:

<http://www.nbcnews.com/>



**2nd ANNUAL
HARVEST PARTY
NOVEMBER 9TH 2013
DRAGONFLY**

3 – 7 pm ALL Are Welcome!

Games, Food, Live Music, Prizes

The First Dragonfly Cannabis Cup

Outdoor Submissions by Oct. 31st (1/8 ths)

Chair Massage, Vapor Room, Cake Walk

PATIENTS

TESTIFY

Glycerine (CBD) tincture is wonderful for my hips!! Luv it
- JB Pacifica

I recommend MJ4X. I have very bad psoriasis. MJ2X usually takes care of the problem when it flares up. Dragonfly staff recommended to add 4x to the 2x to give it a boost. With one use the psoriasis was clearing up, no more leaking sores! It really works. Thank you Dragonfly! - Teddy

Kiana says- Thanks!! Hemp oil is helping with sleeping and depression is less! Woo hoo!

You guys "Rock" my world, with your awesome services! Keep up da good work! - C.A.T.

Red herb oil works awesome for severe back pain. Since trying it I have been off all prescription pills for three months!! J—Gracie Benavedez

Grapefruit Kush is the best! Mendo Hemp Salve AMAZING! Lemon Skunk was too! Thanks for the great ambiance! - Jennifer Parker

Motion Wellness Oil works — amazing for car sickness in our teenage daughter! - out of town visitors.

I was pleasantly surprised at how good the AC/DC clones are! Some of the best tasting and smelling varieties around. Loves the look of it as well. Grows easily & clones easily. -P.C.

Best shop in Ca. by far" - Michael Olivo

Wow. The arthritis salve lets me work. I'm an artist and this is way better than taking prescriptions. — PJ, Mendo

Brain Cancer, Cont.

Amanda's immediate reaction was denial. In fact she was in denial for weeks before she was convinced she had to do something. What were her known options? Her doctor recommended the usual treatment for cancer: surgery, radiation, chemotherapy. This began years of painful and dangerous procedures and even more horrendous side effects.

Amanda had two surgeries in the beginning of her treatment to try and remove the tumor. The surgeons were able to remove most of the tumor but during one of the surgeries they cut an optical nerve. **"I lost my peripheral vision that time. The scans kept showing bits of the tumor left after the surgery. It was too close to certain nerves in my brain to cut it out."**

The doctors started radiation and chemotherapy. "The side effects were horrible. I felt bad all over. I had rashes, dry skin, nausea, vomit-

ing. I had five or six different types of chemotherapy altogether." And the chemo wasn't helping. Every two months, Amanda had another MRI. The tumor was still there.

"Last year, in May 2012, I had a stroke caused from the chemo. I lost my sense of balance. I stopped chemo." Amanda was bedridden. Anytime she tried to get up, her lost sense of balance kept her from moving without danger of falling and hurting herself. But that wasn't the worst of it. The stroke from the chemo left her paralyzed in her left arm – a condition that remains with her to this day.

Amanda and her family were desperate. A family friend suggested that she try cannabis. Her medical caregiver legally provided cannabis to Amanda. On August 18, 2012, Amanda started taking cannabis exclusively, every day. Because the U.S. government is not investing in clinical studies and trials with cannabis, as are Israel,

and other countries, patients in this country have to "play with" the dosage to find what works for them.

"One time I took too much and got too high. I hallucinated that I was dying and had to go to the emergency room. The dosage that worked for me was ½ the size of a grain of rice every few hours."

In about six weeks, Amanda began to get her balance back. By Christmas, she could walk, drive a car and do some shopping. By spring she was feeling much better. But the real benefit came in May 2013. Because that month, her brain scan showed clear. The tumor was gone.

"The cannabis medicine worked. The scans weren't clear before. Now I'm convinced it works. I only wish I had started it sooner – before trying all that chemotherapy."

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Holistic Healing: Classes, Treatments, Medicine

- ◆ Affordable Acupuncture clinic: Tuesday 1— 2:30 pm
- ◆ Obsidian Tribal Fusion Belly Dance: Wednesday 6:00 — 7:00 pm
- ◆ Walk-in Chair Massage: Wednesday 12 — 2 pm **FREE for VETS! Pass the Word.**
- ◆ Meditation: It's Not What You Think (Coming Soon)
- ◆ T'ai Chi Chih: Thursday 5:30 — 6:30 pm
- ◆ Ananda Yoga: Starting Sat. Oct. 26th, 10 — 11 am.

Don't forget to treat yourself to a full body and/or lymphatic massage! Also, try Bowen Therapy and Bioset. Call 962.0890 to make an appointment. ◇

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How Prohibition Threatens One Patient's Life

http://www.rxmarijuana.com/shared_comments/Charcot-Marie-Tooth3.htm

I am a 40 year old man with Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, a progressive hereditary neurological condition. I have symptoms of pain, difficulty walking, restless leg syndrome and pain and cramps in my hands. I have tried various pain control medications and muscle relaxant drugs, but all of these have undesirable side effects. I have also undergone surgery on my ankles to reduce pain and prevent further disability.

I have used cannabis for many years both recreationally and medicinally with no problems except one. I have a criminal record! I was cautioned last year for possession of one herbal reefer for my own personal use after a police sniffer dog picked me out in the street. This resulted in a 5 year criminal record. Before my disability affected me to the current level I worked as a registered nurse, and now I continue to work in the health service but in a more advisory capacity. I am a specialist nurse in the field of addictions and therefore have a fairly sound knowledge of the damage that drug use can do to an individual. My future is now jeopardized by this 'caution' because it could damage my reputation as a health worker and prevent me from working with 'vulnerable people' again.

As for the benefits of cannabis, these are sustained for several hours following smoking a small marijuana joint over the course of a day. I never use tobacco and alcohol, which are contra-indicated for my disease. My muscle cramps are the first thing to disappear, approximately 5-10 minutes after a smoke. Then pain disappears in my legs and hands. I usually will not require a second 'dose' for an hour or two.

The laws on cannabis only came about because of deliberate misinformation and lack of understanding. I believe it is my duty as a health worker and as a disabled person to fight the prejudice and ignorance that is perpetuated to prevent the use of cannabis as a medicine. I was never in trouble with the police in my life until last year, and now I have been criminalized for using a drug that helps with my symptoms. I will continue to use cannabis despite this caution and in spite of the risks of further arrest. I sincerely hope for my children's sake that this situation changes in their lifetime, if not in my own. ◇



Dragonfly Does Mendocino 4th of July Parade!

Focus CBD

Have you heard about the benefits of raw cannabis juice and especially the high CBD juice? CBD's have been found to be effective in relieving chronic pain due to spasticity, convulsions or seizures, inflammation, neuropathy from diabetes and chemotherapy, and symptoms of ms, fibromyalgia and epilepsy as well as anxiety. CBD has also been shown to inhibit cancer cell growth when injected into breast and brain tumors in combination with THC.

Juice made from THC dominant strains are good for you as well. And because the THC is not heated, you won't feel the psychoactive effect. Rather, you'll get the healing benefits of cannabis without getting high.

Dragonfly now has frozen cannabis juice available for your health needs. And call us if you want to participate in the Focus CBD Juicing Project. We'll tell you all the ways you can help the Dragonfly community and get juice for yourself! Call 962.0890.

Legal Update

Feds Drop Charges Against Landlords Renting To Dispensaries

Adapted from a posting by Johnny Green, October 13, 2013 *Medical Marijuana Policy*

The U.S. Attorney's office recently dropped all charges against several California landlords renting to dispensaries. Property forfeiture has remained a major risk of renting to dispensaries so this may signal new relief from that threat.

Tony Jalali, a software engineer who invested in a \$1.5 million piece of property in Anaheim as a means towards his retirement, was facing asset forfeiture for renting to a dispensary. His case was dropped with prejudice, which means they can't threaten to seize his property again. "There will be no refiling of these actions," said Jalali's attorney Matthew Pappas. The only condition to the case being dropped was that Jalali not demand that the U.S. government pay his attorney fees.

Other landlords who had their case dropped the same day included Dr. Mark Burcaw, who was renting to a dispensary in Santa Ana, Walter and Diane Botsch, who were renting to a dispensary in Eagle Rock (L.A.), and Tom Woo, who was also renting to a dispensary in So-Cal.

"It's pretty amazing for them to dismiss the cases, pretty unusual," Pappas said, further stating that this is a direct result of the Obama administration's shifting policy on marijuana. "I think it's a major victory for patients, for citizens in general." While cannabis advocates across the country will need to continue the fight for legalization (both medical and recreational), this is most definitely a victory in the war against the war on cannabis. ◇



Voters Could Legalize Pot in 2014

Cont. from page 1

CCHI 2014 allows doctors to approve or recommend marijuana for patients, regardless of age. It limits testing for marijuana for employment or insurance purposes. It bars state or local aid to enforcement of federal marijuana laws.

CCHI 2014 would instruct the Legislature to pass laws licensing and taxing commercial sales of marijuana and setting a standard for determining when a driver is impaired and should be barred from driving.

In August 2013, the U.S. Justice Department announced a policy change, saying it will ease off on enforcing federal laws in states that allow the use of small amounts of marijuana, so long as those states have "strict regulatory schemes" of their own in place. This initiative will force Sacramento lawmakers to finally approve a regulatory scheme. ◇

Jailed For Medical Marijuana: Five Stories Of Why DOJ's Pot Policy Matters

Adapted from a posting By Nicole Flatow on August 30, 2013

The Department of Justice announced a new policy Thursday in its approach to prosecuting marijuana offenses. While it remained committed to enforcing the federal prohibition on marijuana, it clarified that it would change its approach with respect to distributors and suppliers operating in states with their own marijuana laws. Compliance with comprehensive local laws and regulations that eliminate bad behavior, they said, would be a major factor in potential prosecution. It is unclear how much yesterday's revised policy will change the behavior of U.S. attorneys, who retain discretion to implement the the policy as they see fit. But what is clear is that without the change, many medical marijuana providers paid the price for operating openly and in seeming in compliance with state law, and believe they were made an example of:

Matthew Davies, California, at least five years in prison: Entrepreneur Matthew Davies has a master's degree in business, no criminal record, and two young children. He hired accountants and compliance lawyers, applied for state and local permits, and paid California sales tax. But in January, his two dispensaries were raided, and Benjamin Wagner, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California threw a range of marijuana cultivation charges at Davies, along with his co-owner and marijuana warehouse grow operator. Prosecutors encouraged Davies to take a plea deal carrying a five-year mandatory minimum sentence. If he didn't, they threatened to levy charges carrying another ten years in statutory minimum prison time. Cont. p. 6

Justice Delayed

Continued from p. 5

After President Obama said in January that the administration has “bigger fish to fry” than targeting users in states where marijuana use is legal, Davies contacted Attorney General Holder with his case, pointing out that he was providing patients with medical marijuana and nothing more. In a letter to President Obama published on the Huffington Post, Davies’ wife, Molly Davies wrote, “We are confused and absolutely terrified.” But Holder’s aide just pointed to a letter from U.S. Attorney Wagner that said, “Mr. Davies was not a seriously ill user of marijuana nor was he a medical caregiver — he was the major player in a very significant commercial operation that sought to make large profits from the cultivation and sale of marijuana.” Prosecuting those sorts of people, he said, “remains a core priority of the department.” In other words, running a successful, tax-paying, employee-hiring medical marijuana business was enough to make you a target for federal enforcement. The revised memo released Thursday officially changed that policy, directing: “prosecutors should not consider the size or commercial nature of a marijuana operation alone as a proxy for assessing whether marijuana trafficking implicates the Department’s enforcement priorities.”

Davies took the plea deal and faces a five-year mandatory minimum term in prison. His sentencing was September 27, 2013.

Chris Williams, Montana, five years in prison: Chris Williams was running a Montana medical marijuana dispensary that was considered a model of compliance with state law when his dispensary was raided by federal agents. Unlike his fellow dispensary owners, Williams did not take a plea deal, determined to take his case to trial. The very lowest mandatory minimum drug sentence was five years in jail. Williams ultimately took the plea deal in the hopes of seeing his 16-year-old son’s college graduation. Judge Dana Christensen doled out the lowest sentence he could, lamenting that even after his intervention, the prison term was “unfair and absurd.” While many other dispensary owners have brokered plea deals, others who have gone to trial have faced mandatory minimums of ten years.



Dragonfly is a clean, safe place to obtain Cannabis and other herbal medicines as well as many natural healing treatments. Come Visit!

Richard Flor, Montana, died in custody: Flor was one of several partners working with Chris Williams. A 68-year-old Vietnam War veteran who suffered from diabetes, hepatitis C, and osteoporosis, Flor was also the first registered medical marijuana caregiver in the state of Montana. In 2012, he was sentenced to five years in prison. But four months in, while awaiting a transfer to a Bureau of prisons medical facility, he died behind bars shackled to a bed.

Jerry Duval, Michigan, ten years in prison: Jerry Duval was registered as a “caregiver” in Michigan, meaning he could grow marijuana for himself and other approved patients on his farm on his farm. Jerry used marijuana to treat symptoms from kidney and pancreas transplants, glaucoma, and neuropathy. Like many federal defendants, Duval was barred from presenting evidence of his compliance with state law during his trial. He was sentenced to a ten-year mandatory minimum, which he started serving in June, 2013. A spokesman for the U.S. Attorney’s Office said at the time, “We never treated this case as a medical marijuana issue. It was basically a drug and gun case.” Under pub-

lic pressure, the Bureau of Prisons agreed to place Duval in a federal medical detention facility that could treat Duval’s ailments. The detention could cost more than \$1.2 million.

Harborside Health Center and Berkeley Patients Group, northern California, doing battle with the feds to preserve their assets: In addition to criminal charges, some large medical marijuana dispensaries are facing shutdown through a mechanism known as civil forfeiture, which allows the government to seize the assets of entities it alleges are engaging in illegal activity. The self-described largest medical marijuana dispensary in the world, Harborside Health Center, has successfully fended off forfeiture attempts for several years, with the recent assistance of the city of Oakland, where one of its two facilities is housed. U.S. Attorney Melinda Haag, who has pursued this tactic aggressively, recently initiated forfeiture actions against several other dispensaries, including Berkeley Patients Group, that city’s largest dispensary and one of just a few sources of medical marijuana in the city. The city of Berkeley has also intervened in legal action against the dispensary. ◇



Dragonfly features a pleasant, relaxed place to receive massage, lymphatic drainage, Bowen, and other healing therapies. All are welcome; need not have 215 to benefit.