

THE **NORML** NEWS

your National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

NORML Comments On Supreme Court Medical Cannabis Ruling

Washington, DC: The US Supreme Court ruled 6-3 this month to not uphold a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision which found that the federal prosecution of patients who cultivate and possess marijuana for their own medicinal use is an unconstitutional exercise of Congress' Commerce Clause authority.

First, the Ninth Circuit ruled 2-1 in December 2003 that "the intrastate, non-commercial cultivation, possession and use of marijuana for personal medical purposes on the advice of a physician - is, in fact, different in kind from drug trafficking," and issued an injunction barring the US Justice Department from taking legal action against the appellants, California medical cannabis patients Angel McClary Raich and Diane Monson, for violating the federal Controlled Substances Act. The Justice Department appealed that decision to the Supreme Court, which heard oral arguments in the case last November.

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Taxing And Regulating Cannabis Could Yield \$14 Billion In Annual Savings And Revenue, Study Says

Boston, MA: Enforcing state and federal marijuana laws costs taxpayers an estimated \$7.7 billion annually, according to a report released this week by visiting Harvard University economics professor, Jeffrey Miron, and endorsed by more than 500 economists.

The report, entitled "Budgetary Implications of Marijuana Prohibition in the United States," estimates that legalizing marijuana would save state and local governments \$5.3 billion annually, while saving the federal government \$2.4 billion. A previous analysis of marijuana arrest expenditures published by the NORML Foundation in March estimated that enforcing marijuana prohibition, primarily at the state level, costs approximately \$7.6 billion per year.

Miron's report also estimates

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Increased Drug Enforcement Associated With Higher Levels Of Non-Drug Crimes, Study Says

Syracuse, NY: Drug arrests have an adverse impact on rates of non-drug crimes, including violent crimes and property crimes, according to empirical findings published in the June issue of the journal Social Science Quarterly.

Researchers at LeMoyne College in Syracuse analyzed five years of New York state county data to evaluate the effects of recent drug arrests on reported rates of assault, robbery, burglary and larceny. Authors found:

"Drug enforcement is positively associated with higher levels of both violent and property crime. ... These results are consistent with the view that non-drug crime rates may rise because limited police resources are diverted from [violent and/or property] crimes when drug arrests are

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A Voice for Responsible Marijuana Smokers

Since its founding in 1970, NORML has provided a voice in the public policy debate for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition and favor an end to the practice of arresting marijuana smokers. A nonprofit public-interest advocacy group, NORML represents the interests of the tens of millions of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly.

During the 1970s, NORML led the successful efforts to decriminalize minor marijuana offenses in 11 states and significantly lower marijuana penalties in all others.

Today NORML continues to lead the fight to reform state and federal marijuana laws, whether by voter initiative or through the elected legislatures. NORML serves as an informational resource to the [national media](#) on marijuana-related stories, providing a perspective to offset the [anti-marijuana propaganda](#) from the government; lobbies state and federal legislators in support of reform legislation; publishes a regular [newsletter](#); hosts, along with the NORML Foundation, an informative web site and an [annual conference](#); and serves as the umbrella group for a national network of citizen-activists committed to ending marijuana prohibition and legalizing marijuana.

Their sister organization, [the NORML Foundation](#) sponsors public advertising campaigns to better educate the public about marijuana and alternatives to current marijuana policy; provides legal assistance and support to victims of the current laws; and undertakes relevant research.

The oldest and largest marijuana legalization organization in the country, NORML maintains a professional staff in Washington, DC, and a network of volunteer state and local [NORML Chapters](#) across the country. Check 'em out!

NORML's mission is to move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is no longer subject to penalty.

When marijuana is enjoyed responsibly, subjecting users to harsh criminal and civil penalties provides no public benefit and causes terrible injustices. For reasons of public safety, public health, economics and justice, the prohibition laws should be repealed to the extent that they criminalize responsible marijuana use.

NORML supports the right of adults to use marijuana responsibly, whether for [medical](#) or [personal](#) purposes. All penalties, both civil and criminal, should be eliminated for responsible use. NORML also supports the legalization of [hemp](#) (non-psychoactive marijuana) for industrial use. **To find out more, like how you can help, call, write or visit their website. You'll be glad you did!**

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However, the US Supreme Court then ruled that the Justice Department has the authority to prosecute state-authorized medicinal cannabis patients for violating the federal Controlled Substances Act.

"This decision is still a 'win' for marijuana-law reform advocates," NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said. "If the Court had upheld the Ninth Circuit decision, then it would have affirmed the notion that the non-commercial, intrastate possession and use of medicinal cannabis is solely a matter of state, not federal law.

However, Court reversed the Ninth Circuit's opinion, so the bottom line is that state and local laws protecting medicinal cannabis patients and their physicians remain in place and are unaffected by this ruling. The federal government can choose to continue to waste taxpayers' dollars and undermine states' rights by arbitrarily raiding the homes of seriously ill patients who possess and use medical cannabis in compliance with state law, or they can choose more worthwhile priorities, like national security and prosecuting violent criminals."

"Now, it remains pivotal that Congress amend federal law to properly recognize cannabis' therapeutic utility," St. Pierre said. "Throughout our history, the public has looked to state legislatures and Congress - not the courts - to be the architects of public policy. With 80 percent of Americans as well as numerous health organizations, including the American Nurses Association and the American Public Health Association, in favor of legalizing the physician-supervised use of medicinal cannabis, it's time for the federal government to butt out of doctors' decisions regarding which medicine is the most safe and effective for their patients."

Pending in Congress is House Bill HR 2087, "the States' Rights to Medical Marijuana Act," sponsored by Reps. Barney Frank (D-MA), Ron Paul (R-TX), Sam Farr (D-CA), Rohrabacher, and Hinchey, along with 31 co-sponsors, which would reclassify marijuana under federal law to recognize its medical utility and enable physicians to legally prescribe it under controlled circumstances.

For more information on the ruling, please contact either Allen St. Pierre or NORML Legal Counsel Keith Stroup at (202) 483-5500. Additional information about the Supreme Court's decision is available online at: <http://angeljustice.org> and at:

http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6550

Supreme Court Ruling Spurs US Congress Vote To Bar Feds From Targeting Medi-Pot Patients Congress To Continue Prosecution Of State-Authorized Medi-Pot Patients 161 House Members -- The Most Ever - - Vote To Halt Raids

Congress voted this month on a bipartisan amendment sponsored by Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) and Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) that would prohibit the federal government from spending taxpayers' dollars to prosecute patients who comply with their state's medical marijuana laws.

The announcement of the amendment's introduction comes just days after the US Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that the Justice Department has the authority to prosecute state-authorized medicinal cannabis patients for violating the federal Controlled Substances Act.

"Writing for the majority, Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens said that he longs for the day when medicinal cannabis advocates 'may be heard in the halls of Congress,'" NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said. "The 2005 Hinchey/Rohrabacher medical marijuana amendment does just that giving Congress the authority to go on record to protect and support the health and safety of patients who use cannabis therapeutically in compliance with the laws of their state."

Members of the US Congress House of Representatives voted on an amendment to bar the US Department of Justice (DOJ) from prosecuting patients who use medical cannabis in accordance with state laws. The bi-partisan provision, to be introduced by Reps. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) as an amendment to the 2005 Justice Department appropriations bill, would prohibit the DOJ and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) from spending taxpayers' dollars for the purpose of pursuing any criminal or civil penalty against patients who comply with the medical cannabis laws of their state.

The House of Representatives struck down a similar proposal last year by a vote of 286 to 148, with 70 percent of Democrats and 19 Republicans supporting the measure. The House voted 264 to 161 against the bi-partisan measure, sponsored by <continued on next page>

<continued from previous page> Reps. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) and Maurice Hinchey (D-NY).

The 161 House votes in favor of the patient-protection provision was the highest total ever recorded in a Congressional floor vote to liberalize marijuana laws. Of those who voted in support of the Hinchey/Rohrabacher medical marijuana amendment, 15 were Republicans (a loss of four votes from 2004) and 128 were Democrats (a gain of 17 votes from last year). The House's only Independent Congressman, Vermont Representative Bernard Sanders, also voted in favor of the amendment.

State-authorized patients and their caregivers who use or possess medical cannabis will continue to be subject to federal arrest and prosecution, after the House of Representatives rejected a proposed amendment to bar the US Department of Justice (DOJ) from targeting patients who use marijuana medicinally in accordance with the laws of their states.

"With the Supreme Court's ruling, Congress and the Justice Department have a choice: They can choose to waste taxpayers' dollars and undermine states' rights by arresting and prosecuting seriously ill patients who possess and use medical cannabis in compliance with state law, or they can choose more worthwhile priorities, like protecting national security," NORML Executive Director St. Pierre said. "Yesterday, 264 members of Congress chose to prosecute patients."

Speaking on the House floor in favor of yesterday's amendment, co-sponsor Maurice Hinchey said,

"It is unconscionable that we in Congress could possibly presume to tell a patient that he or she cannot use the only medication that has proven to combat the pain and symptoms associated with a devastating illness. How can we tell very sick people that they cannot have the drug that could save their lives simply because of a narrow ideology and bias against that drug in this Congress? ... Taxpayers' dollars should not be spent on sending seriously or terminally ill patients to jail."

Also speaking in favor of the provision were Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and co-sponsor Dana Rohrabacher, along with Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Sam Farr (D-CA), Barney Frank (D-MA), Dennis

Kucinich (D-OH), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), and Lynn Woolsey (D-CA).

Congressmen Elton Gallegly (R-CA), Steve King (R-IA), John Peterson (R-PA), Mark Souder (R-IN) and Frank Wolf (R-VA) spoke in opposition to the amendment.

For more information on the Hinchey/Rohrabacher medical marijuana amendment, please visit:

http://capwiz.com/norml2/mail/oneclick_compose/?alertid=7309441

Final vote tallies for the Hinchey/Rohrabacher medical marijuana amendment are available online at:

<http://clerk.house.gov/cgi-bin/vote.asp?year=2005&rollnumber=255>

Feds Begin Crackdown Against Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

San Francisco, CA: On Wednesday, June 22, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and other federal agencies raided three medical marijuana dispensaries in San Francisco. Apparently more than 20 residences, businesses and cultivation sites were searched and at least 13 individuals were arrested.

In a separate and ongoing investigation, a federal grand jury in Sacramento indicted Marion (Mollie) Fry, MD and her husband Dale Shafer, Esq. of Cool. They were arrested at their home, charged and have pleaded not guilty in federal court to charges of distributing and manufacturing at least 100 marijuana plants. Both Dr. Fry and her husband Dale have been speakers at recent NORML conferences in California.

The New York Times reports that the raids and arrests were the first large-scale actions against medical marijuana clubs and providers since the Supreme Court upheld federal authority over marijuana on June 6. The Times coverage captures what may be an ominous change in federal law enforcement policy. According to Gordon Taylor, special agent from the Sacramento office of the DEA: "We will not turn a blind eye to serious and flagrant disregard for federal law. There may be those who think we can disregard the court and Congress. DEA will not be among them."

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<continued from previous page> "One fears this is the beginning of a massive federal crackdown to close the medical marijuana dispensaries currently serving California's patient community; one hopes that common sense will yet prevail, and the tens of thousands of medical marijuana patients in California will not be forced to search for their medicine on the black market," said NORML Legal Counsel Keith Stroup. "This looks as if the federal law enforcement officials may have misconstrued the Raich/Monson decision as a mandate to treat patients and their providers as criminals."

A spokesperson for the San Francisco Police Department, Sgt. Neville Gittens, said in a statement that its officers "did not take part in any investigation of these clubs or take any law enforcement action against these clubs." A spokesperson for San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom said that federal investigations reinforced the importance of "trying to protect the legitimate uses of medicinal marijuana in the state."

For more information about the state of medical marijuana laws post-Raich, please visit:

http://www.norml.org//index.cfm?Group_ID=6550

<continued from **TAX AND REGULATE**, page 1 > that legalizing cannabis would yield \$6.2 billion in annual revenue if it were taxed at rates comparable to those imposed upon alcohol and tobacco.

"We ... urge the country to commence an open and honest debate about marijuana prohibition," states an open letter accompanying the report, signed by over 500 economists, including Stanford University's Milton Friedman. "We believe such a debate will favor a regime in which marijuana is legal but taxed and regulated like other goods. At a minimum, this debate will force advocates of current policy to show that prohibition has benefits sufficient to justify the cost to taxpayers, foregone tax revenues, and numerous ancillary consequences that result from marijuana prohibition."

A previous survey published in the April 2004 issue of the journal *Econ Journal Watch* found that most US economists believe that current drug prohibition strategies are ineffective and favor liberalizing American drug policies.

Full text of the report, "Budgetary Implications of Marijuana Prohibition in the United States," is available online at:

<http://www.prohibitioncosts.org/mironreport.html>

<continued from **STUDY SAYS**, page 1 > given a higher priority, users must finance higher-priced purchases when supplies decline, and sellers pursue alternate crimes when the risk of arrest increases."

Authors noted that arrests for marijuana violations were associated with an increase in larcenies, but not other non-drug crimes.

"For [New York] state as a whole, a 10 percent increase in the mean of [total drug arrests] would increase robberies by 212, burglaries by 576, and larcenies by 2,965," authors estimated. "A 10 percent increase in the mean arrest rate [for marijuana violations] is estimated to generate 880 additional larcenies for the state as a whole."

Authors concluded, "The empirical findings raise serious questions about the effectiveness of drug enforcement as a crime-control measure and suggest that significant social costs may arise from existing approaches to drug control."

For more information, please contact either Allen St. Pierre or Paul Armentano of NORML at (202) 483-5500. Full text of the study, "Drug Enforcement and Crime: Recent Evidence from New York State," appears in the June issue of *Social Science Quarterly*.

Cannabinoid Neuroprotective Against Cerebral Infarction, Study Says

Fukuoka, Japan: Administration of the non-psychoactive cannabinoid cannabidiol (CBD) is neuroprotective against cerebral infarction (localized cell death in the brain) in mice, according to clinical trial data published in the May issue of the journal *Stroke*.

"Treatment of cannabidiol ... significantly reduced the infarct volume ... in mice" in a dose dependent manner, a research team at Fukuoka University's Department of Neuropharmacology concluded. Authors speculated that CBD "exerts a neuroprotective effect through its anti-oxidant, anti-spasmodic, and anti-emetic activity, [as well as through] vasorelaxation."

Researchers at the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH) have previously reported that cannabinoids are neuroprotective in animals

<continued from previous page> against brain damage caused by alcohol and/or stroke.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at (202) 483-5500. Full text of the study, "Cannabidiol prevents cerebral infarction," is available in the May issue of the journal Stroke.

Canada Should Establish "Regulatory Framework" For Cannabis, Study Says

Vancouver, British Columbia: Canadian law should be amended to allow for the taxation and regulation of cannabis, according to the conclusions of a City of Vancouver report released this week and endorsed by the city's mayor.

"[T]he Federal Government should take a leadership role at the national and international levels to initiate reform of current drug laws and move toward creating regulatory frameworks for psychoactive substances that will allow municipalities to better address the harms associated with the trade and use of these substances at the local level," states the report, entitled "A Plan to Prevent Harm from Psychoactive Substance Use."

It continues, "[T]he Federal Government [should] implement further legislative changes to create a legal regulatory framework for cannabis in order to enable municipalities to develop comprehensive cannabis strategies that promote public health objectives, including appropriate regulatory controls for cannabis-related products, and support the development of public education approaches to cannabis use and related harms based on best evidence."

The Canadian government is presently considering legislation to decriminalize small amounts of cannabis, while increasing penalties on commercial cultivation.

A study published last year by the Vancouver economic think-tank The Fraser Institute also recommended that cannabis be taxed and regulated in a manner similar to alcohol or tobacco.

A 2002 Canadian Senate Committee report recommended Parliament "amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to create a criminal exemption scheme, under which the production

and sale of cannabis would be licensed,[and] sold to permit persons over the age of 16 to procure cannabis and its derivatives at duly licensed distribution centers." For more information, please contact either Allen St. Pierre or Paul Armentano of NORML at (202) 483-5500.

Medical Cannabis Spray Now Available In Canada

Ottawa, Ontario: Canadian pharmacies this week began carrying Sativex, an oral spray consisting of natural cannabis extracts, for the treatment of neuropathic pain associated with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Canada is the first nation in the world to grant regulatory approval for the cannabis-derived medicine.

Produced by the British biotechnology firm GW Pharmaceuticals and marketed by Bayer, Sativex is a whole plant medicinal cannabis extract containing precise doses of the cannabinoids THC and cannabidiol (CBD), as well as naturally existing terpenoids (oils) and flavonoids (antioxidants). In clinical trials, Sativex has been demonstrated to alleviate numerous MS-associated symptoms compared to placebo, including pain, muscle spasms, and bladder incontinence.

GW is expected to seek further approval from Canadian regulators to market Sativex for additional indications, including chronic pain.

British health regulators have yet to approve the drug in the UK and are awaiting results from ongoing, large-scale clinical trials. GW has yet to make serious inquiries to US regulators regarding the drug's approval, but is expected to in the near future.

The anticipated cost to patients for a one-month supply of Sativex will be approximately \$375, USA Today reported.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at (202) 483-5500.

Rhode Island Governor Vetoes Medical Marijuana Legislation

Providence, RI: Rhode Island Governor Don Carcieri (R) vetoed legislation this week that would have exempted qualified patients from state criminal penalties for the possession and

use of medical cannabis. The General Assembly had previously approved the bill, known as the Edward O. Hawkins and Thomas C. Slater Medical Marijuana Act, by votes of 52-10 in the House and 34-2 in the Senate. Carcieri issued his veto a day after meeting with representatives from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), who encouraged the Governor to oppose the bill.

The bill's sponsors are expected to schedule an override of the Governor's veto. An override would require votes from three-fifths of the lawmakers in each chamber.

If approved, the Edward O. Hawkins and Thomas C. Slater Medical Marijuana Act would allow state-authorized patients with a doctor's permission to legally possess up to 2.5 ounces of cannabis and/or 12 plants under state law. Patients and their caregivers are to register with the state Department of Health and their cannabis must be stored in an indoor facility. Patients who are legally authorized to use medical cannabis in other states will also receive statewide protection in Rhode Island under the Act.

Ten states - Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington - have enacted laws legalizing the physician-authorized use of medicinal cannabis. Maryland enacted legislation in 2003 requiring a patient's use of medical marijuana to be considered as a mitigating factor in a marijuana-related state prosecution.

For more information, please contact either Allen St. Pierre or Paul Armentano at (202) 483-5500. Additional information on Rhode Island's Medical Marijuana Act is available at:

<http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/alert/?alertid=7777301>

Attorney General For The Netherlands: "I Believe Because It Is Absurd"

The Hague, The Netherlands: Last week, in the major Dutch newspaper NRC-Handelsbad, the Attorney General for The Netherlands severely criticized his country's cannabis policy as "an ineffective form of law enforcement" and the efforts to enforce cannabis prohibition as "extremely thankless" and that "law enforcement struggles with an unworkable mandate."

In an as yet unpublished 'conclusion' prepared for the Netherland's Supreme Court of Justice, J. Wortel, Director of Public Prosecutions and a career-long prosecutor, laments that even The Netherlands' official policy of tolerating small-scale sales and personal possession of cannabis is an "unworkable" policy that undermines other law enforcement activities and public health priorities. Quoting religious leader Tertullianus, Wortel writes,

"'Credo quia absurdum' (I believe because it is absurd). For a long time I have kept this to myself, as ... a respectable law enforcement official. But now I give in to the temptation to [acknowledge] that this [Latin] saying comes to my mind every time I have to do my duty in a law case regarding hashish or weed."

While not overtly advocating for legalizing cannabis products outright, Wortel chooses to place blame on the Dutch government for creating a prohibition that can not be readily justified to the public and therefore should not be left to law enforcement institutions, such as the police and judiciary, to implement. Wortel points to the subjective nature of cannabis law enforcement by commenting on "a remarkable government anomaly in government attitudes: the human craving for nicotine<notwithstanding its proven harmfulness<remains a valued source of public income through the levying of excise-duties, while cannabis products continue to be forbidden." Wortel further muses,

"I am convinced that a future historian describing our period, with regard to our official relationship with cannabis sativa will express astonishment about the money-squandering obstinacy with which we, the law enforcement community, keep struggling with our unworkable mandate."

"Wortel's conclusions about the unworkable nature of cannabis prohibition in The Netherlands (and in North America), as the country's attorney general is notable for it's basic common-sense approach. Marrying the social acceptance of cannabis to a pragmatic tax-and-control scheme makes perfect sense (similar to both countries' well-established controls for alcohol and tobacco-related products)," said NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre. "NORML would hope to begin to hear similar public remarks questioning the wisdom of current cannabis policies from elected officials in the United States."



THE NORML NEWS



From your National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

Arrests Drive Spike In "Marijuana Treatment" Admissions, Study Says

Rockville, MD: The majority of individuals admitted to drug rehabilitation for marijuana are referred there by the criminal justice system, according to a new report published by the Drug and Alcohol Services Information System (DASIS).

Fifty-eight percent of those entering drug treatment for marijuana in 2002 were referred by the criminal justice system, the report found, up from 48 percent in 1992. Referrals from schools and health care/drug abuse care providers comprised another 15 percent of all admissions. By comparison, only 38 percent of those admitted to treatment for alcohol and only 29 percent of those admitted to treatment for cocaine were referred by the criminal justice system.

"Contrary to the Bush Administration's claims, it is marijuana prohibition - not the use of marijuana itself - that is driving up rates of marijuana 'treatment' admissions," NORML Senior Policy Analyst Paul Armentano said. "The record increase in the number of individuals now seeking 'treatment' for cannabis is due to a proportional increase in the number of those arrested by law enforcement for marijuana violations and subsequently referred to drug treatment by the criminal justice system.

Primarily, these are young people arrested for minor pot possession offenses, brought before a criminal judge or drug court, and ordered to drug rehabilitation in lieu of jail or juvenile detention."

According to a previous 2002 DASIS report, since 1995 the proportion of marijuana treatment admissions from all sources other than the criminal justice system has actually declined, Armentano said. "At a time when tens of thousands of Americans are being denied access to drug treatment due to a lack of bed space or federal funding, it is unconscionable that these clinics are bursting at the seams needlessly housing marijuana smokers," he said.

The DASIS report, "Differences in Marijuana Admissions Based on Source of Referral: 2002," is available at:

<http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k5/MJreferrals.htm>

Bipartisan Legislation To Authorize Commercial Hemp Cultivation Introduced In U.S. Congress

Washington, DC: HR 3037, the Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2005, would remove non-psychoactive industrial hemp from the federal Controlled Substances Act and grant state legislatures "exclusive authority" to regulate the growing and processing of the crop.

Currently, the United States is the only developed nation that fails to cultivate industrial hemp, which is a distinct variety of the plant species *cannabis sativa* that contains only minute (less than 1%) amounts of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. Farmers throughout the world grow hemp commercially for fiber, seed, and oil for use in a variety of industrial and consumer products, including food. Hemp fiber and hemp-based products are legally imported to the United States in compliance with several economic treaties, including NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) and GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade). Several US states have passed legislation authorizing the cultivation of industrial hemp for research and commercial purposes. However, farmers in these states cannot legally grow hemp without federal permission. House Bill 3037 would remove this hurdle by creating a distinction in federal law between marijuana and industrial hemp (defined as *cannabis* with less than 0.3% THC), and granting states the authority to regulate it as a legal agricultural crop.

"The federal ban on hemp cultivation and production is a direct outgrowth of the government's absurd war on cannabis," said NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre. "Industrial hemp cultivation has been a successful cash crop for farmers in Canada and Europe, and there is no logical reason why US farmers should be denied the legal authority to participate in this growing worldwide industry." Visit:

<http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/alert/?alertid=7766166&type=CO>