

Instructions

The Ten Letters Toolkit is an easy and effective way to get friends, family, and other reform-minded people to send a letter to their members of Congress.

Ten Letters is effective because it limits the amount of work other people have to do. With this program, MPP writes the letters, you find the soon-to-be activists, and you mail the letters. All your friends and family have to do is sign their name and address to participate. This method dramatically increases the effectiveness of your campaign.

Step 1: Print out the 10 letters in this document.

Step 2: Find 10 friends and simply ask them to sign their name, address, and zip code on one of the letters in the space provided.

Step 3: Get online and visit <http://www.house.gov>. Use the “Find Your Representative” tool to enter your friends’ zip codes. The Web site will then tell you who their representative is and provide a link to his or her Web site where you can find the correct mailing address. You can repeat this process on <http://www.senate.gov> in order to send letters to senators.

Step 4: Mail the letters to your friends’ members of Congress using their address as the return address on the envelope (this will increase the impact of your letters because they appear organic). Only use one letter per envelope, to ensure that every letter gets taken seriously and is responded to.

Step 5: Thank your friends for helping out! Then, go find another 10 people who are willing to participate.

If you have any questions, e-mail MPP’s Ben Morris at bmorris@mpp.org for more information.

Dear Congressman/Congresswoman:

I am writing you today because President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder have recently stated a policy of non-interference with state medical marijuana laws. Under the administration's policy, the federal government will no longer arrest medical marijuana patients and caregivers who comply with state medical marijuana laws.

As you know, there is currently no exemption for medical marijuana patients in federal law. Given the administration's policy, I think it is time for Congress to change federal law and allow medical marijuana patients access to their medicine.

78% of Americans support making marijuana available to patients whose doctors recommend they use it . A growing number of medical organizations, including the American College of Physicians and the American Academy of Family Physicians, have also stated their support for physician-supervised medical marijuana access.

Would you please help alleviate the suffering of medical marijuana patients by introducing or supporting medical marijuana legislation in Congress?

Sincerely,

Dear Congressman/Congresswoman:

While the U.S. economy continues to drag and national debt continues to grow, the federal government continues to spend billions of dollars fighting a losing war on marijuana. I believe it is time for a new approach.

For more than 70 years, marijuana prohibition has failed to curb marijuana use. Violent drug cartels continue to make huge profits selling marijuana inside the United States, and reports show that marijuana use rates in America are higher than in any other nation. Marijuana prohibition has succeeded in wasting \$10 to \$41 billion dollars annually on a policy that fails to achieve any results.

I am asking you to support a change in marijuana policy. Please consider taxing and regulating marijuana in manner similar to alcohol. By doing so, we could save law enforcement resources, create tax revenue, and control a market that for decades has existed only in unregulated criminal markets.

A recent poll by Zogby International found that 52% of Americans support taxing and regulating marijuana. More and more people are realizing the benefits of a policy change.

Would you please introduce and support legislation to end marijuana prohibition and replace it with a system of taxation and regulation modeled on alcohol laws?

Sincerely,

Dear Congressman/Congresswoman:

Please introduce legislation that would tax and regulate marijuana like alcohol.

Research shows that by treating marijuana like alcohol, the government could save American taxpayers between \$10 and \$41 billion every year. This change would also free up significant law enforcement resources that would be better spent pursuing violent criminals. Additionally, ending marijuana prohibition would allow us to focus on treating individuals with addiction problems by eliminating the fear of arrest and prosecution.

There is no evidence to suggest that taxing and regulating marijuana would lead to an increase in marijuana use. Of all the nations surveyed by the World Health Organization in 2008, America had the highest rates of marijuana use – much higher than many countries with more relaxed laws. Indeed, governments that have opted to regulate marijuana rather than criminalize it have found that usage rates either remain the same or decrease in the following years.

I hope that you will consider supporting taxing and regulating marijuana here in the U.S. Would you please introduce and support legislation that would end 70 years of failed marijuana prohibition and replace it with system of taxation and regulation modeled on alcohol?

Sincerely,

Dear Congressman/Congresswoman:

I am writing you to express my deep concern over the federal government's stance on medical marijuana.

All over the country, people with AIDS, cancer, MS, and other serious illnesses are being arrested and put in jail for following their doctor's advice. Despite significant support from the medical community, Congress has failed to pass legislation protecting medical marijuana and separating it from everyday recreational use.

Medical marijuana enjoys the support of many mainstream medical organizations and thousands of health care professionals. The American College of Physicians, the American Nurses Association, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, American Academy of Family Physicians, British Medical Association, American Academy of HIV Medicine, American Academy of Family Physicians, and many others have endorsed some form of safe, legal access to medical marijuana.

Additionally, President Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder have made it clear that the new administration is not interested in prosecuting medical marijuana patients. Why not allow the law to reflect this new reality?

I urge you to listen to the medical community and President Obama, and help keep sick and dying people out of jail by supporting legislation that would protect medical marijuana patients from arrest.

Sincerely,

Dear Congressman/Congresswoman:

For more than 70 years, marijuana prohibition has failed us. Despite having strict laws and spending billions of dollars on fighting marijuana use, America has the highest rates of marijuana use in the world. There were 872,720 marijuana-related arrests in 2007, more than any other year in American history. More than 775,000 of those arrests were for simple possession -- not trafficking or production, just simple possession.

These arrests come at a significant cost to the American taxpayer. Research shows that ending marijuana prohibition would save \$10 to \$41 billion annually. Regulating marijuana like alcohol or tobacco would also take billions of dollars out of the hands of criminals, like the drug cartels that are terrorizing Mexico.

Please help move our nation towards a better marijuana policy: Introduce and support legislation to end marijuana prohibition and regulate marijuana like alcohol or tobacco.

Sincerely,

Dear Representative:

Violence in Mexico is getting worse by the day. Drug cartels have created an environment of fear that makes it impossible for Mexican officials to do their work. The country's very stability may be threatened.

It's time to put an end to U.S. policies that fuel these murderous drug gangs. Between 60% and 75% of the money funding Mexican drug cartels comes from marijuana sales in the U.S. Just as Congress did with alcohol in the 1930s, we can take these profits out of the criminal market by taxing and regulating marijuana like alcohol.

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These arrests come at a significant cost to the American taxpayer. Ending marijuana prohibition would save between \$10 and \$41 billion annually.

Please help move our nation towards a better marijuana policy: Introduce and support legislation to end marijuana prohibition and regulate marijuana like alcohol or tobacco.

Sincerely,

Dear Representative:

I am writing to ask for your support in bringing an end to one of our government's most wasteful programs, the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign run by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

A number of groups have expressed serious concerns about the media campaign's efficacy, including the White House Office of Management and Budget, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Republican Study Committee, and the Senate Appropriations Committee. In 2005, a study conducted by Westat found that the campaign did little to curb teen drug use. In fact, the data showed that marijuana use in certain high-risk groups actually increased because of the advertisements.

Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle have admonished the ONDCP for squandering millions of dollars on ineffective ads. However, the media campaign continues to receive significant funding every year.

We can no longer afford to squander tax dollars on wasteful and ineffective programs. Please help bring an end to the ONDCP's National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign. Your support will help us focus government resources on more effective programs, and I will be grateful.

Sincerely,

Dear Representative:

Marijuana is currently the only medical drug in our pharmacopoeia for which the federal government has a monopoly on production. Access to marijuana for medical research is tightly controlled by the DEA, who has authority to grant or deny licenses to researchers looking into the drug's medical efficacy.

This policy prevents researchers like Professor Lyle Craker of the University of Massachusetts from conducting research in to the drug's possible medical benefits and keeps U.S. businesses from entering the emerging cannabinoid drug market.

Other countries are already capitalizing on the lucrative and promising cannabinoid drug market. GW Pharmaceuticals, a pharmaceutical company based in England, has teamed up with Otsuka, a Japanese company, to conduct trials for a marijuana-based drug, Sativex. Since the U.S. government's monopoly on marijuana is keeping our pharmaceutical industry from competing with companies overseas, these companies have an edge in the marketplace.

The United States should put medical marijuana through FDA clinical trials in order to fully investigate it's medical potential. In order to do so, the federal government must relax restrictions on researchers seeking to undertake pretrial investigations of the drug.

Please support American industry and sound drug policy by helping scientists investigate marijuana's medical potential.

Sincerely,

Dear Representative:

I am writing to urge you to support the end of marijuana prohibition in this country. Each year, more than 800,000 people are arrested for marijuana offenses, costing American taxpayers more than \$10 to \$41 billion annually. I am sure you'll agree that this enormous amount of money could be put to far, far better use.

For instance, the money saved from ending marijuana prohibition could provide health insurance each year to 4.5 million uninsured children in this country. According to surveys by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, uninsured children are at risk of preventable illness -- such as acute asthma attacks or hearing loss -- because of a lack of regular check-ups.

Shouldn't we focus our country's resources more important things, rather than prosecuting a wasteful war on marijuana users?

I urge you to support federal legislation that would allow states to tax and regulate marijuana.

Sincerely,

Dear Representative:

I am writing today to ask you to help protect medical marijuana patients from arrest and prosecution for using a medicine that helps relieve their pain.

Many organizations, studying the treatment and prevention of cancer, agree that medical marijuana can be an effective medicine for seriously ill patients. Cancer Monthly, the Journal of Clinical Oncology, and the Lymphoma Foundation of America have all published documents that support the use of medical marijuana by cancer patients. They join many other organizations, such as the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Nurses Association, American Public Health Association and the American Academy of HIV Medicine that support or accept some form of physician-supervised access to medical marijuana. **Will you join them?**

Cancer Monthly is the only centralized source of the survival rates and side effects of hundreds of the latest cancer treatments. The May 2006 issue stated; “[F]or cancer patients with advanced cancers who want to improve the quality of their life, a risk versus benefit analysis [of smoked medical marijuana] weighs heavily on the benefit side.”

In 1990 a random survey of oncologists, published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, found that “54% of oncologists favor the controlled medical availability of marijuana, and 44% have advised at least one of their cancer patients to obtain marijuana illegally” (Doblin/Kleiman). Nearly half of the doctors surveyed had risked their reputation and professional license because of the benefits medical marijuana could have for their patients.

The Lymphoma Foundation of America wrote, in a 2004 amicus brief to the Supreme Court, “[M]arijuana has therapeutic properties not replicated by other currently available medications.”

Please consider the vast knowledge of these organizations and the 78% of Americans who support medical marijuana.

Sincerely,
