

Cannabis Reform Issues

Medical Marijuana:

- The current administration has urged the DEA to continue raids of medical marijuana patients and caregivers.
- SB 420 requires each county in California to establish rules and guidelines for medical marijuana by January 2005. Santa Barbara began a system using identification cards this summer.
- Raich v. Ashcroft will be heard in the Supreme Court in November 2004. This will decide the legality of state medical marijuana laws.

Hemp:

- Recently the deadline passed for the Justice Department to appeal a case that declared hemp foods legal to possess and consume in the United States clearing the way for hemp products in the American market.

Sentencing Reform:

- Mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses are overcrowding our prisons forcing the release of violent offenders including those convicted of domestic violence.
- Three Strikes laws send drug addicts to prison for life. The current push for reform would limit three strike laws to violent offenses.

Policy Flaws:

- The Higher Education Act contains a provision that denies federal financial aid to those convicted of a drug offense. Several bills have recently been introduced to repeal this provision they did not pass though.
- The Supreme Court does not consider the use of cannabis as religious sacrament therefore there is no defense under the 1st Amendment Freedom of Religion for cannabis use.
- Most fortune 500 companies drug test their applicants, denying drug addicts and cannabis users the opportunity for employment.
- The federal government can also deny subsidized housing and other welfare benefits to those found to be using drugs.
- The Bush administration has pushed forward with random drug testing in public schools as well as mandatory drug testing for extracurricular activities in some areas.

Recreational Use:

- The DEA has spent over \$150 million on a media campaign claiming smoking pot will make you a loser, you'll shoot your buddy with a handgun or forget to pick your little brother up from soccer.
- "Operation Pipedreams" and other campaigns targeting head shops are responsible for putting Tommy Chong in jail. He has been released but glass blowing will never be the same.