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Members who donate at least \$25 or who make monthly contributions of at least \$5 will receive MPP's *Marijuana Policy Report* three times per year.

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*Because MPP devotes 100% of its efforts toward influencing public policy, contributions are not tax-deductible. If you need your contribution to be tax-deductible, please direct it to "MPP Foundation" instead.*

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# ABOUT THE MARIJUANA POLICY PROJECT



P.O. Box 77492 · Capitol Hill  
Washington, D.C. 20013  
membership@mpp.org  
www.MarijuanaPolicy.org

NEARLY 100 MILLION ADULTS in the United States have tried marijuana at least once in their lives. Yet despite marijuana's widespread use, marijuana users are being arrested at an alarming rate. In 2002, more than 700,000 Americans were arrested on marijuana charges—and 88% of those were for possession, not manufacture or distribution. *That's one arrest every 45 seconds.*



Seventy-two percent of American adults believe that marijuana users should not be jailed—and a whopping 80% support legal access to medical marijuana for seriously ill patients. It's time to end marijuana prohibition.

## Marijuana Policy Project

MPP IS THE LARGEST marijuana policy reform organization in the United States. Incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1995, MPP works to minimize the harm associated with marijuana—both the consumption of marijuana and the laws that are intended to prohibit such use.

MPP believes that the greatest harm associated with marijuana is prison. To this end, MPP focuses on removing criminal penalties for marijuana use, with a particular emphasis on making marijuana medically available to seriously ill people who have the approval of their doctors.

MPP has:

- More than 14,000 dues-paying members;
- More than 60,000 e-mail subscribers;
- An annual operating budget of \$2 million, plus \$7 million for special political projects in 2004;
- A separate \$2 million grants program;
- A central office in Washington, D.C., and satellite offices in San Francisco, Hollywood, Anchorage, and Montpelier; and

- Lobbyists on retainer in five state capitals—and initiative campaign teams in Arkansas, Montana, and Nevada.

## MPP's Current Projects

- MPP monitors every marijuana-related bill in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Congress, sending regular e-mail alerts to members and supporters. MPP's 52 legislative Web pages make it easy for visitors to contact their elected officials via e-mail and fax. (For an example, see [www.mpp.org/NY](http://www.mpp.org/NY).)
- MPP is lobbying to pass medical marijuana bills in Connecticut, Illinois, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
- MPP worked with members of Congress to introduce H.R. 1717, the "Truth in Trials Act," which would allow federal medical marijuana defendants to introduce evidence that they acted in compliance with state medical marijuana laws. MPP is lobbying additional U.S. House members to cosponsor the bill and is pursuing the introduction of similar legislation in the U.S. Senate. MPP members and allies have used MPP's Web site to send more than 23,000 faxes to Congress.
- MPP is continuing its "war" on White House Drug Czar John Walters' wasteful and dishonest activities, including pursuing state and federal complaints against Walters' illegal use of tax money to campaign against marijuana-related bills and initiatives.
- MPP is building "political machines" in Alaska and Vermont to influence state legislative races in order to elect a slate of pro-reform candidates.

**"Of all the special interest groups so far involved in the primary campaign, advocates of medical marijuana ... have been the most active and most visible—to this point, at least."**

—John DiStaso, political columnist for New Hampshire's *Union Leader* (July 17, 2003)

## MPP's major accomplishments include:

- ✓ SUCCESSFULLY CAMPAIGNED to change federal marijuana sentencing policies in October 1995, which resulted in the early release of hundreds of federal marijuana prisoners.
- ✓ DRAFTED AND GAINED PASSAGE of Hawaii's and Maryland's medical marijuana laws, which were enacted in June 2000 and May 2003, respectively.
- ✓ LED THE PUSH for Nevada's Question 9, a ballot initiative to regulate marijuana similarly to alcohol. Though the measure failed in the November 2002 election, the campaign generated more public support, dues-paying members, and positive news coverage than any other project in MPP's history.
- ✓ GENERATED GRASSROOTS LOBBYING PRESSURE that successfully pushed through Congress an asset forfeiture reform bill, which was signed into law by President Clinton in April 2000.
- ✓ SPEARHEADED A TWO-YEAR CAMPAIGN to bring patient and physician perspectives to the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine's hearings on medical marijuana, which resulted in the release of IOM's landmark report in March 1999.
- ✓ LOBBIED THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES to support an amendment to "defund" the DEA's raids on medical marijuana patients

and providers. This first-ever binding House vote on medical marijuana showed significant congressional support, with 152 House members voting in favor of the amendment.

- ✓ URGED THE 2004 DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL candidates to make public their views on medical marijuana. As a result of this aggressive campaign, several candidates improved their stances on medical marijuana.
- ✓ CRITICIZED THE NOMINATION of Karen Tandy to head the DEA. Though Tandy was eventually confirmed to lead the agency, MPP's efforts persuaded several U.S. senators to go on record as opposing or having serious concerns about Tandy because of her refusal to stop the DEA's raids on medical marijuana patients and providers.

These accomplishments and other MPP projects have been featured on the cover of *Time* magazine; in articles in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, the Associated Press, and Reuters; and in appearances on *The O'Reilly Factor*, *Crossfire*, *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, and *CNN Headline News*.

**"They [MPP] have an unbelievably strong lobbying group."**

—Maryland Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller in the *Baltimore Sun* (March 25, 2003)



On May 22, 2003, Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich (seated, center) became the first Republican governor to sign a medical marijuana bill into law. MPP's Rob Kampia and Larry Sandell attended the bill signing.



MPP's Aaron Houston confronts presidential candidate U.S. Sen. John Kerry (D-MA) on C-SPAN about his views on medical marijuana.



MPP's 2002 ballot initiative sought to end marijuana prohibition in Nevada (campaign sign pictured).



MPP's Rob Kampia appears on Fox News' *The O'Reilly Factor* to discuss MPP's legal complaints against Drug Czar John Walters.



MPP's Steve Fox appears on CNN Headline News to discuss recent national surveys on drug use.



Katie Couric interviews MPP's Rob Kampia on NBC's *Today Show* about the Institute of Medicine's landmark report on medical marijuana.



# PLEASE JOIN MPP TODAY!

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**Marijuana Policy Project**  
**P.O. Box 77492**  
**Capitol Hill**  
**Washington, D.C. 20013**

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