

Emporians for Drug Awareness, Inc.

Working for a Safer Community

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February 7, 2008

**Honorable Susan Wagle, Chair, and
Distinguished Members of the Health Strategies Committee:**

Marijuana is currently a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substances Act. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) both support that designation as marijuana meets the three criteria for placement in Schedule I: (1) marijuana has a high potential for abuse; (2) marijuana has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States; and, (3) marijuana has a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision.

In addition, numerous scientific studies conducted by credible agencies such as the FDA, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and National Institute for Drug Abuse (NIDA) have concluded that there is no data, either animal or human, to support the safety or effectiveness of marijuana for general medical use. More importantly, alternative medications that are FDA-approved are already in existence for treatment of many of the proposed uses of smoked marijuana.

No one wants to deny a person with a debilitating illness some relief, but putting these same people at risk because of the lack of appropriate dosages, quality control, interactions with other drugs, and the effect crude marijuana might have on pre-existing conditions makes it more of a health risk than a benefit. This is merely a method of playing on our emotions and sympathy for our fellow human beings who are suffering by those who want to be able to have the ability to use marijuana at will.

I am confident that our lawmakers and the vast majority of their constituents from across the state realize the negligence legislation such as medical excuse marijuana represents.

Respectfully,



Teresa Walters, Certified Prevention Specialist
Executive Director

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