



National Lawyers Guild

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Representative Mark Cohen
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Dear Representative Cohen:

The Philadelphia Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild congratulates and thanks State Representative Mark Cohen for introducing HB 1393 -- The Medical Marijuana bill. We pledge our support to this important health care initiative. This proposal would allow seriously ill patients who find relief from marijuana to use it with their doctor's approval. Currently, 13 states have enacted similar legislation and our neighbor, New Jersey, is poised to become the 14th state to do so. The wholesale prohibition against any type of use of marijuana is a legacy of the failed drug war that has had little effect on drug use but instead spawned an underground economy, resulting in street violence reminiscent of the Roaring Twenties and the failed alcohol prohibition. The Federal Government's classification of marijuana as a Schedule One drug -- harsher than harder drugs with no medicinal use -- is absurd. The Obama Administration has correctly decided against future prosecutions in the 13 states that have taken this common sense approach. It is time for Pennsylvania to move ahead and end the needless suffering of our fellow citizens.

Sincerely,

National Lawyers Guild Philadelphia Chapter