



US Supreme Court Rejects Challenge To State Medical Marijuana Laws

Washington, DC, USA: The US Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal brought by a pair of Southern California counties that sought to challenge the legality of the state's medical marijuana laws. The Court's order lets stand a unanimous 2008 Fourth District CA Court of Appeals ruling that determined that state laws allowing for the medical use of cannabis by qualified patients "do not create a 'positive conflict' [with federal law.]"

In 2006, lawmakers from San Diego and San Bernardino filed suit against San Diego NORML and the state of California, arguing that federal anti-drug laws preempt the state's medical marijuana laws. Both the California Superior Court and the Court of Appeals had rejected the counties' legal arguments.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union, which represented San Diego NORML in the suit: "The Court's order ... hold[s] that state medical marijuana laws are entirely valid despite the federal prohibition on marijuana. ... The Court's order leaves ample room for states to move forward with enacting and implementing independent medical marijuana policies."

<continued on page 3 >

Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act Reintroduced In Congress

Washington, DC, USA: Massachusetts Democrat Barney Frank, along with co-sponsor Texas Republican Ron Paul, reintroduced legislation today to enact legal protections for state-authorized medical marijuana patients.

The Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act of 2009, would ensure that medical cannabis patients in states that have approved its use will no longer have to fear arrest or prosecution from federal law enforcement agencies.

Thirteen states - Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington - have enacted laws protecting medical marijuana patients from state prosecution. Yet in all of these states patients and providers still face the risk of federal sanction - even when their actions are fully compliant with state law.

<continued on page 3 >

MERCY Gatherings

The Medical Cannabis Resource Center (MERCY) continues hosting meetings at the Gathering Place Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Tuesdays and Thursdays from Noon til 4pm and Wednesday evenings from 7pm til 9pm the Gathering Place will be open to receive visitors and allow people to network on and about medical cannabis. The place offers a unique opportunity for the cardholders in the Salem area as the owners are allowing folks to exchange resources and even medicate on-site.

There is no fee to attend and non-cardholders and the public are welcome whether just there to get info or waiting for a cardholding acquaintance. We facilitate their accommodation and have info on how to get your card, as well as other literature, available for them. **The Gathering Place is in Keizer and is located at 7845 River Road NE, 97301.** For more info, maps and directions, visit our website.



The MERCY News Report is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit project to record and broadcast news, announcements and information about medical cannabis.

For more information about the MERCY News, contact us.

Snail Mail:

**The MERCY News
P.O. Box 1111,
Cornelius, Ore., 97113
503.363-4588**

E-mail:

Mercy_Salem@hotmail.com

our WWW page:

www.MercyCenters.org

Check it out!

The MERCY News Report is produced by virtue of the expense and energy of the members and staff of MERCY, the



About MERCY

MERCY is a not-for-profit, grass roots organization founded by patients, their friends and family and other compassionate and concerned citizens in the area and is dedicated to helping and advocating for those involved with the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP). MERCY is based in the Salem, Oregon area and staffed on a volunteer basis.

The purpose is to get medicine to patients in the short-term while working with them to establish their own independent sources. To this end we provide, among other things, ongoing education to people and groups organizing clinics and other Patient Resources, individual physicians and other healthcare providers about the OMMP, cannabis as medicine and doctor rights in general.

The mission of the organization is to help people and change the laws. We advocate reasonable, fair and effective marijuana laws and policies, and strive to educate, register and empower voters to implement such policies. Our philosophy is one of teaching people to fish, rather than being dependent upon others. Lasting change will require that each citizen be active enough to register and effectively vote. You, and only you, the people, can make it happen. We will help in any way we can, but you have to tell us what you need. Work with us to make this your "tool shed", or resource guide, to successful medical cannabis utilization and activism.

Meetings and Meet-Ups

Networks and Meet-Ups; Patients in the 'Hood. To update folks with current status and action items surrounding the issues affecting the medical cannabis community as well as registering voters, distributing literature and networking ideas. One of the missions of MERCY is to establish regular get-togethers in each community where there are (or will be!) medical cannabis patients.

The purpose is to get patients networking and self-sufficient within their neighborhoods, assist those seeking information about the MMP and pass on (or pick up!) action items of interest to the group. Regular meetings are being established around the state and MERCY will continue to help make them happen and network folks to them.

The goal of the meetings s/be to service:

- * **People** seeking to join the MMP or public wanting general info, usually for a friend or family member.
- * **Patients and CareGivers** wanting to network. This is being planned in conjunction with other meetings and other lines of communication for the OOMPAH. (add link to meeting network and bulletin boards)
- * **Activists** exchanging information and resources.

Please help us help the sick and dying, For more info or **If you have any information or ideas, Places to Meet or other Resources for Oregon, please let us know. Contact MERCY - the Medical Cannabis Resource Center by phone: 503.363-4588 or email: info@mercycenters.org**

< continued next page >

< continued from previous page >

Current EVENTS

* every last Thursday of the Month, 7:00pm to 9:00pm * TV Show filming and Patient MeetUp hosted by MERCY-TV at CCTV in Salem, at Capital Community Television, 575 Trade St, Salem, Oregon, 97301 – Monthly Filming and Meeting * call: 503.363-4588 or visit - <http://mercycenters.org/tv/> - for more

* Every 1st Monday of the month, 7pm (except September, no meet) * Medical Cannabis Network opportunity in Sweet Home. Public Meet Up of Sweet.Net, a Medical Cannabis Resource NetWork for Patients as well as CardHolders-to-be. In Sweet Home (OR) * A Meet Up has been arranged by MERCY associate Dorothy Westofkansas at the American Legion Building, 1127 Long Street, Sweet Home, Oregon, 97386 starting at 7pm. The purpose is to establish a regular networking of Patients, Caregivers and Interested Parties in the area. **More Meetings and Meet-Ups on Page 7 !** For the latest info about Meetings and Meet-Ups, call MERCY at: 503.363-4588 –or- visit: <http://www.mercycenters.org/>

<continued from SUPREME COURT REJECTS CHALLENGE, page 1 > Commenting on the outcome, NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said: "San Diego and San Bernardino's protracted lawsuits — lawsuits that arguably cost county taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars and jeopardized the health and safety of thousands, if not tens of thousands, of citizens — were not about resolving legal ambiguity. These cynical efforts were about the arrogance and recalcitrance of a few who were willing to abuse their political power to hamstring the will of the voters, the state legislature, and the courts." For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500. The case is *County of San Diego et al. v. San Diego NORML et al.*

<continued from PATIENT PROTECTION ACT REINTRODUCED, page 1 > Commenting on the bill, NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said: "This legislation seeks to amend the discrepancy between federal law and the laws of over a dozen states that have enacted regulations governing the therapeutic use of cannabis. These citizens and representatives, as well as patients and lawmakers from additional states that seek to regulate the controlled use of medicinal marijuana, should be allowed to act in a manner that is free from federal interference."

Previous versions of the Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act were introduced in both the 108th and 109th Congress, but failed to receive a public hearing or a committee vote.

Passage of the Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act would ensure that medical cannabis patients or providers who are compliant with state law, such as Charles Lynch (who was sentenced today in federal court), would no longer have to fear arrest and prosecution from federal law enforcement agencies.

While campaigning for the presidency, Barack Obama pledged not to use Justice Department resources "to try and circumvent state (medical marijuana) laws." Nevertheless, agents from the US Drug Enforcement Administration have continued to target medical marijuana providers in states that allow for the drug's use.

For more information on The **PATIENT PROTECTION ACT**, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500. Additional information about the Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act of 2009 is available at NORML's Take Action Center at: <http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/>

Department Of Justice Urged To Clarify Administration's Medical Marijuana Policy

Washington, DC, USA: Members of the US House Appropriations Committee approved an amendment this week that seeks to clarify the Obama Administration's policy toward medical marijuana patients and providers in states that have authorized the drug's therapeutic use.

The amendment, sponsored by Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) as part of the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies appropriations bill, reads: "There have been conflicting public reports about the Department's (of Justice's) enforcement of medical marijuana policies. Within 60 days of enactment, the Department shall provide to the Committee clarification of the Department's policy regarding enforcement of federal laws and use of federal resources against individuals involved in medical marijuana activities."

In March, US Attorney General Eric Holder stated that he would not authorize federal justice resources to target or prosecute medical cannabis users or providers that are compliant with state

< continued next page >

< continued from previous page > law. However, agents from the US Drug Enforcement Administration have continued to target medical marijuana providers in California and other states, and federal prosecutors have continued to bring federal anti-drug charges against defendants who were acting in accordance with their state's cannabis laws.

"I've been greatly encouraged by what President Obama and Attorney General Holder's public statements in support of state's determining their own medical marijuana, but remain concerned about the matter since the federal government has still continued raids in states that permit the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes," Rep. Hinchey said in a prepared statement. "This provision will provide Congress with the transparency we need to determine whether any further legislative action is needed. It's imperative that the federal government respect states' rights and stay out of the way of patients with debilitating diseases such as cancer who are using medical marijuana in accordance with state law to alleviate their pain."

The full House is expected to consider the bill shortly. *For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500.*

U.S. Physicians Announce Founding Of American Academy Of Cannabinoid Medicine

Santa Barbara, CA, USA: A coalition of US physicians and researchers has founded a new organization dedicated to promoting ethical standards in therapeutic cannabis treatment.

"The American Academy of Cannabinoid Medicine ... is a professional medical organization dedicated to the clinical and scientific understanding of the endocannabinoid system and the therapeutic application of cannabis and cannabinoids," the group states in a press release.

It continues: "The Academy serves as an authoritative information source for doctors, state medical boards and the media on the medical application and research related to the clinical use of cannabis and cannabinoids. We are dedicated to educating physicians about the clinical therapeutic usefulness of cannabis to relieve symptoms of the myriad of diseases that respond to this class of medications."

Members of the organization "will promote high medical ethical and practice standards in the approval and recommendation of cannabis for

medicinal purposes." According to the organization's website, the AACM has "developed certifying practice standards and guidelines for practicing physicians who recommend and approve the medicinal use of cannabis acting within state law."

"Our mission is to foster the highest standards in the practice of cannabinoid medicine," the website states. *For more information about the American Academy of Cannabinoid Medicine, please visit: <http://aacmsite.org>.*

More Americans Misusing Illicit Painkillers For The First Time Than Trying Pot, Study Says

Washington, DC, USA: More Americans report misusing prescription opioids than trying pot, according to a study released last week by the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

According to the report, a record 2.15 million Americans over age 12 reported misusing prescription pain relievers for the first time in 2007 (the last year for which data was available). By comparison, the study found that 2.1 million Americans reported using cannabis for the first time.

The study reported that the total number of unintentional deaths involving prescription opioids increased 114 percent from 3,994 in 2001 to 8,541 in 2005, the most recent year for which nationwide data was available.

Violent crime associated with the diversion and abuse of pharmaceutical painkillers has increased steadily over the past five years, the study's authors found. Researchers concluded that Americans' misuse of prescription opioids now costs taxpayers over \$72 billion annually.

Commenting on the new report, NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said, "Were U.S. drug policy to be guided on science and objective harms rather than on ideology and cultural stereotypes, it is clear that the focus of America's so-called 'war' on drugs would be on Americans' widespread misuse of potentially deadly pharmaceuticals rather than on adults' occasional use of a relatively nontoxic plant that is incapable of causing human overdose." *For more information, Full text of the report, The National Prescription Drug Threat Assessment, is available online at: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs33/33775/index.htm>*

Marijuana Compounds Have "Palliative" And "Curative" Effects On Cancer

Salerno, Italy: Naturally occurring compounds in cannabis possess anti-tumor properties and present a novel approach for cancer treatment, according to a scientific review published in the February issue of the journal *Best Practice & Research: Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*.

Investigators at the University of Salerno in Italy report that cannabinoids limit cancer cell proliferation and induce tumor-selective cell death.

Cannabinoids inhibit "tumor growth and migration, angiogenesis (the formation of new blood vessels to cancerous tumors), [and] metastasis (the transfer of malignant cells from one site to another)," authors concluded. "Emerging evidence suggests that agonists of cannabinoid receptors ... may offer a novel strategy to treat cancer."

A 2008 review in the journal *Cancer Research* reported that the administration of cannabinoids halts the spread of a wide range of cancers, including brain cancer, prostate cancer, breast cancer, lung cancer, skin cancer, pancreatic cancer, and lymphoma.

To date, only one clinical trial assessing the use of cannabinoids as anti-cancer agents has been conducted. That trial reported that THC administration decreases recurrent glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) tumor growth in patients afflicted with the disease.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Use of cannabinoid receptor agonists in cancer therapy as palliative and curative agents," appears in the journal *Best Practice & Research: Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*. Additional information on the anti-cancer properties of cannabinoids appears online at: http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7008.

Rhode Island: State To License Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

Providence, RI, USA: Lawmakers passed legislation this week making Rhode Island the second state to license and regulate the distribution of medical marijuana to authorized patients.

Republican Gov. Donald Carcieri vetoed the 2009 Medical Marijuana Act last week. But on Tuesday, members of the General Assembly voted to override the Governor's veto by a vote of 102 to 3.

The new law takes effect immediately.

Earlier this year the New Mexico legislature codified language allowing for the state to license non-profit facilities to dispense medicinal cannabis. However, no such facilities are presently up and running.

In California, several hundred facilities provide medical cannabis to qualified patients, though these operations are typically regulated by local governments.

Approximately 700 Rhode Island residents are registered with the state to use marijuana legally. Lawmakers legalized the possession and use of medicinal cannabis by authorized patients in 2007. For more information, please visit: <http://ripatients.org>.

Oral THC Improves Symptoms Of Schizophrenia, Study Says

Orangeburg, NY, USA: Daily administration of oral synthetic THC significantly improves symptoms of schizophrenia, according to the findings of an open-label case series published this month in the *Journal of Clinical Psychopharmacology*.

Investigators at the Rockland Psychiatric Center in Orangeburg, New York, and the New York University School of Medicine, administered 2.5 to 5 mg doses of oral THC (dronabinol) for a period of eight weeks to six patients diagnosed with chronic, refractory schizophrenia. All of the patients enrolled in the study had reported previously using cannabis to mitigate their condition.

"Four of the 6 patients improved to a clinically significant extent (after taking dronabinol)," researchers reported. "Three of the six patients had a robust response, with modest to marked reductions in core psychotic symptoms."

Patients 1 and 2 showed improvement within several weeks of beginning the medication, whereas patient 3 required 8 weeks to reach significant improvement. In addition, robust improvement in overall functioning was also observed, with patients 1 to 3 changing from being gravely ill to being functioning individuals able to be discharged. Patient 4 had more limited improvement in that he was calmer, cooperative, and less aggressive but had persistence of his core

< continued next page >

< continued from previous page > psychosis. Nevertheless, his overall functioning was significantly improved. ... There were no clinically adverse effects."

Investigators concluded, "These results ... open a possible new role for cannabinoids in the treatment of schizophrenia."

Previous studies assessing the use of marijuana in patients with schizophrenia have produced mixed results. A 2007 German study reported improved cognition in patients who used cannabis, and a 2008 Australian study found that patients diagnosed with schizophrenia report experiencing subjective relief from pot.

Critics of medical cannabis use have argued that heavy marijuana use may exacerbate psychosis in patients with mental illness. However, the largest trial ever conducted comparing cannabis using and non-using schizophrenic patients reported no statistically significant "differences in symptomatology between schizophrenic patients who were or were not cannabis users" after controlling for patients' age, sex, and ethnicity.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Synthetic Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (dronabinol) can improve symptoms of schizophrenia," appears in the June issue of the Journal of Clinical Psychopharmacology.

Michigan: State Medical Marijuana Program Now Accepting Applicants

Lansing, MI, USA: As of Saturday, April 4, patients may begin seeking applications to register with the Michigan Medical Marijuana Program. Patients in the program are permitted under state law to possess and grow cannabis for medical purposes.

Sixty-three percent of state voters approved an initiative establishing the program last November. Michigan is the thirteenth state to enact legislation allowing for the physician-supervised use of marijuana under state law.

Administrative rules for the program are available from the Michigan Department of Community Health. The website also has application instructions and forms online. *For more information, please see:*

<http://Michigan.gov/mmp>

Cannabis Spray Shows Long-Term Benefits For Multiple Sclerosis

Porton Down, United Kingdom: Long-term administration of Sativex, an oral spray consisting of natural cannabis extracts, reduces spasticity in multiple sclerosis patients, according to clinical trial data reported last week by the biotechnology firm GW Pharmaceuticals.

Thirty-six patients completed the placebo-controlled randomized withdrawal study. Subjects in the study had been using Sativex for a mean of 3.6 years.

Patients who ceased using Sativex during the four-week trial experienced significantly worse spasticity than they had while taking the drug, investigators reported.

There was "no evidence of withdrawal syndrome in those patients who stopped taking Sativex."

A similarly designed study previously reported that long-term use of Sativex consistently reduced MS-associated neuropathic pain. Patients in that study continued to receive adequate pain relief from Sativex over a period of several years without growing tolerant to the drug or having to increase their daily dose over time.

"Taken together, these studies show that the efficacy of Sativex in the treatment of both neuropathic pain and spasticity due to MS is maintained in long-term use," researchers concluded in a press release.

Ongoing investigations of the use of cannabinoids and multiple sclerosis have indicated that the compounds may slow the progression of the disease. A 2008 review published in the journal *Current Pharmaceutical Design* reported, "Cannabinoids may not only offer symptom control but [they] may also slow the neurodegenerative disease progression that ultimately leads to the accumulation of disability." In 2005, Sativex was approved in Canada for prescription use to ameliorate symptoms of MS. *For more information, please visit: <http://www.gwpharm.com/>.*

Medical Cannabis Information Resources

A guide to OMMA and medical cannabis in general. The OMMA Web Page by Rick Bayer, MD, FACP. Visit: www.omma1998.org

Is Marijuana the Right Medicine for You? A Factual Guide to Medical Uses of Marijuana by Bill Zimmerman, PhD with Rick Bayer, MD and Nancy Crumpacker, MD, ISBN#0-87983-906-6 (Keats 1998). Chapter 3: Why All the Controversy? What Does The Research Actually Show? is online at: www.medmjscience.org/Media/pdf/chap3.pdf

Oregon State Clinics:

Mothers Against Misuse and Abuse (MAMA) * To schedule for Portland & Bend: 5217 SE 28th Ave (Steele & 28th), Portland, OR 97202 * 503-233-4202 * office hours: 10 am to 5 pm. To schedule for The Dalles 502 Washington Street, Suite 203, The Dalles, OR 97058 * 541-298-4202, office hours: 10 am to 4 pm -or- visit: <http://mamas.org/Clinics.htm>

The Hemp & Cannabis Foundation (THCf) * 4259 NE Broadway St. * PORTLAND (Hollywood dist) - call for an appointment: 503.235-4606 * visit - <http://www.thc-foundation.org>

Voter Power * 6701 SE Foster Rd, Suite D Portland, OR 97206 * phone: 503-224-3051 Fax: 503-235-5365 or visit:

<http://voterpower.org/index.php/Clinics.php>

* **Forums.** A means to communicate and network on medical cannabis in Portland across Oregon and around the world. A list of Forums, Chat Rooms, Bulletin Boards and other Online Resources for the Medical Cannabis Patient, CareGiver, Family Member, Patient-to-Be and Other Interested Parties. * Visit:

www.mercycenters.org/orgs/Forums.html

MEETINGS and MEET-UPS

Medical Cannabis Network opportunity in Sweet Home. First Monday of the month, starting at 7pm. * At the American Legion Building, 1127 Long Street, Sweet Home, Oregon, 97386. Call 503.363-4588 -or- visit:

mercycenters.org/events/Meet_PUB_Sweet.htm

Public Meeting on Medical Cannabis in Keizer, will happen every Wednesday, 7pm - 9pm * at the Gathering Place, **7845 River Road NE, 97301**

Oregon Medical Cannabis Cultivators Club (O.M.C.C.C.) meetings the 1st and the 3rd Sunday of each month, from 4 to 8 PM, at Studio 6, which is at 6 Tillamook Street, **Portland, OR 97212** * (503) 995-6604 - <http://www.omccc.org/intro.htm>

More MEETINGS and MEET-UPS

Patient Resource NetWork Meetings 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month in Portland hosted by Oregon NORML. 2nd Saturdays = OMMP Cardholders Meetings (Clones and Medicine) and 4th Saturdays = OMMP 101 (Learn the Program, Learn the Law; Doors open at 11am, close at Noon; You must be a cardholder in the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program; You must be a member of Oregon NORML. **Visit:** > <http://www.ornorml.org/events/cardmtg.html> < for the latest information.

Oregon Green Free (OGF) is a OMMP CardHolder-based virtual community that networks on-line and arranges meet-ups and other activity around the state. **Contact info:** mail to Oregon Green Free HQ, 2375 SE 174th Ave., Portland, Oregon, or phone: 503.760-2671 * or visit: <http://www.oregongreenfree.com>

OGF Meet-Up Info:

* **Second & Fourth Saturday of the Month, 3pm - 6pm** * Oregon Green Free (OGF-Eug) Meetings, 687 River Ave in **Eugene.**

* **1st Wed of every month * at Stark Street Pizza (Portland), 7 pm** * OGF (PDX)

* **Every 2nd Saturday of the month * at DHS building in LaGrande at Noon** * OGF East * The La Grande area chapter holds its meetings at Integrated Services Building (DHS, Sr. & Disabled) 1607 Gekeler Lane, which is on or near the Blue Mountain Community College.

* **Every 3rd Saturday of the month * at the Tigard Town Hall (Tigard) at 12:30** * OGF PDX West *

* **Every 3rd Saturday of the month * at the Cape Ferrelo Fire Hall, north of Brookings - from 1pm til 4pm** * OGF-South-Coast * The Cape Ferrelo Fire Hall is at 96349 Cape Ferrelo Road, Brookings Oregon. Cape Ferrelo Road East is off HWY 101 north of Brookings, about 3 miles up on the left.

* **Every 4th Saturday of the month * at Big Blue, the Oregon Green Free (OGF) Patient Resource Center at 2 pm** * OGF-PDX-East * Meeting, open to the public. * Big Blue is located at 2375 SE 174th Ave., **Portland, Ore. 97233** * Ph: 503-760-2671 * Fax: 503-715-0120

* **Every 4th Saturday of the month** * in the Westlake Restaurant in **Seaside** at Noon * OGF North Coast *



HOW TO - a Guideline for Completing the Application for Registration in the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program

NOTE: You must be an Oregon resident to be a registered patient in the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP). You must have a qualifying debilitating medical condition as listed on the Attending Physician's Statement.

1. Malignant neoplasm (Cancer)
2. Glaucoma
3. Positive status for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
4. Agitation due to Alzheimer's Disease
5. A medical condition or treatment for a medical condition that produces for a specific patient one or more of the following: (check all that apply)
 - a. Cachexia
 - b. Severe pain
 - c. Severe nausea
 - d. Seizures, including but not limited to seizures caused by epilepsy
 - e. Persistent muscle spasms, including but not limited to spasms caused by multiple sclerosis

Step (1) - Get and fill out the Application for Registration in the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act Program. Get Forms from the OHD and begin the process of Applying. The OMMP sometimes has packets at the front desk (Oregon Health Division, 800 NE Oregon St., Portland, OR 97232), or call (971) 673-1234 and ask a representative of the Oregon Health Division for an OMMA application packet - or - write to OHD, P.O. Box 14450, Portland, OR 97293-0450 and they'll send you one. Or visit their website:

<http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ommp/>

... and download forms from there.

Form Instruction NOTES: (a) Please complete Part A of the Application Form. Please provide a copy of a photo identification card as requested. If information on the front of the card is not current (for example, if your address has changed) please also photocopy the back of the id. (b) If a person over the age of 18 provides assistance to you, and you would like for that person to also receive a registration card, please complete Part B of the

form, and provide a copy of photo I.D. of the primary caregiver. [Note: there is no additional fee for a primary caregiver registration card.] (c) Completion of Part C is optional. Please be sure to sign your name in Part D. (d) If you are a minor (under the age of 18), your parent or guardian must complete the Declaration of Person with Primary Custody of a Minor form. The form must also be notarized.

Step (2) - Set an appointment & have your doctor sign the Oregon Health Dept. form - or - get a copy of your chart notations showing medical marijuana "may help alleviate symptoms". Your physician must be an MD or a DO licensed to practice in Oregon under ORS 677. He or she must provide signed, valid, written documentation stating that you are his/her patient, that you have been diagnosed with a debilitating medical condition covered by the Act, and that the medical use of marijuana may mitigate the symptoms or effects of your condition. This documentation may be in the form of a copy of your chart notes, a letter, or the attached Attending Physician's Statement form. [Note: chart notes or a letter must include all elements of the Attending Physician's Statement form.]

Step (3) - Send in your application with registration fee. In order for your application to be complete, a fee of must be paid by check or money order. As of Jan. 1st, 2006, the fee is determined by the following:

- * \$100 for new applications;
- * \$100 for renewal applications;
- * \$20 for applicants who are enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan or who receive federal Supplementary Social Security Income.

To qualify for the \$20 fee, applicants must submit documentation that verifies they are on the Oregon Health Plan or are receiving Supplemental Social Security income Please make payable to: Oregon Health Division and send payment with your application forms and/or other materials. All information will be verified.

Step (4) - Wait. All information will be verified. Upon receipt of a complete application, you will be issued a medical marijuana registration card by the Oregon Health Division. Please call (971) 673-1234 if you have any questions.

< continued inside >

