



California

NORML

National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

State Office: 2261 Market St. #278A, San Francisco CA 94114: (415) 563-5858

FAX (510) 849-3974 / dale@canorml.org - www.canorml.org

LA Office: 8749 Holloway Dr., W. Hollywood 90069: (310) 652-8654

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Chairman Tom Ammiano
Assembly Public Safety Committee
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Chairman Ammiano:

We wish to endorse AB 1811, your bill to legalize drug paraphernalia when used for legal purposes such as medical marijuana.

California's current blanket ban on paraphernalia is untenable given the legal status of medical marijuana under Prop. 215. It makes no sense to allow medical marijuana while criminalizing the means of using it. Unfortunately, we continue to hear reports that California is wasting law enforcement resources on charging legitimate Prop. 215 patients for possessing paraphernalia and stores for selling it.

AB 1811 would be especially useful in eliminating the criminality of the following items of particular value for medical marijuana:

(1) Equipment for testing and analyzing marijuana. Legitimate patient concerns have been expressed about the potency, contamination and adulteration of medical marijuana. While a number of patients' collectives are interested in having laboratories test their products, current law makes such equipment illegal.

(2) Inhalation devices that may reduce the hazards of marijuana smoking, such as water pipes, bongs, electric pipes, and other, new smoke-reduction technology.

(3) Equipment used to process and package medical marijuana, including scales and balances, sifters, containers, and packages. It is important that medical marijuana be appropriately packaged and labeled, but this is illegal under current law.

(4) Cultivation equipment for patients to grow their medicine.

(5) Mixing bowls, spoons and kitchen equipment for preparing edible preparations and extracts of medical marijuana.

Finally, AB 1811 would promote consumer information and education by allowing paraphernalia stores to provide literature on the proper use of marijuana, its health and medical effects, and how to use it safely. Most stores

are presently afraid to supply any information about marijuana because they are obliged to maintain the pretense that their products are for other legal products such as tobacco or tomato growing.

We urge the legislature to bring California's obsolete paraphernalia laws up to date by approving AB 1811.

Sincerely,

Dale Gieringer, Ph.D.
Director, California NORML
2261 Market St. #278A
San Francisco CA 94114
(415) 563-5858 – dale@canorml.org