



Plans for all Pennsylvanians

It's time to legalize marijuana

Our People's Campaign is more than a political campaign – it's also a movement to legalize marijuana.

My 3-step plan to legalize marijuana will:

- Immediately authorize doctors to prescribe marijuana for treatment of appropriate conditions and illnesses
- Remove criminal penalties for possession of small amounts of marijuana as soon as possible; and,
- Legalize marijuana and regulate and tax it as soon as possible.

Pennsylvania's marijuana laws are wasting hundreds of millions of dollars, denying effective medicine to sick people, wrecking lives, and filling our prisons to bursting with non-violent people whose only offense was possession of a small amount of marijuana. It's time to stop this senseless, ineffective, expensive war on marijuana and implement evidence-based policies that save money, address the real problems, provide relief to patients.

Driving under the influence of alcohol as well as marijuana must continue to be against the law. Driving under the influence causes death and injuries and cannot be tolerated. Proper regulation of marijuana will reduce the access that minors currently have to it. Increased education and treatment for drug and alcohol addictions must be a priority as well.

Pennsylvania law enforcement arrests about 25,000 people for possession of marijuana each year at a cost of around \$350 million. Prosecuting and jailing people for the non-violent offense of using marijuana ruins lives, stresses our judicial system and strains our prisons. African-Americans are arrested at 5 times the rate of whites, even though usage is the same.

Pennsylvania must allow the use of medical marijuana. Doctors, not politicians, must prescribe medicine, including cannabis. Marijuana is not addictive, and it is an effective treatment for a variety of conditions and illnesses including the side effects of chemotherapies for cancer, AIDS, and hepatitis C. It is also effective in treating chronic pain, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, and seizure disorders. Recognizing the therapeutic benefits of marijuana, 20 states, including our neighboring states of New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware, have legalized its use for medicine when prescribed by a physician. Taxation of marijuana can raise hundreds of millions of dollars of needed revenue to support education and health services.

We could immediately begin saving money by reducing the penalties for possession of marijuana from a misdemeanor to a summary offense similar to a speeding ticket. Removing all penalties for possession of marijuana and allowing its legal sale will allow the state to regulate and tax the use of marijuana.