



# California **NORML**

**National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws**

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July 24, 2009

Gil Kerlikowske, Director  
Office of National Drug Control Policy  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Kerlikowske:

As one who has interviewed thousands of patients and doctors who find medical value in marijuana, I was shocked to hear you proclaim that "marijuana has no medicinal benefit."

You should know that that this contradicts the conclusions of the Institute of Medicine report commissioned by your predecessor, Drug Car McCaffrey, that marijuana has benefits for seriously ill patients.

In my book, *Marijuana Medicinal Handbook*, you can find references to scores of clinical studies documenting medical benefits of marijuana. Among them are five FDA studies by California's Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research, of which I am an advisory board member.

Next time you visit California, we would be happy to arrange a tour for you to acquaint yourself with California's medical cannabis patients, physicians, researchers, and collectives.

In the meantime, please honor President Obama's pledge to bring us government based on science, not ideology. If the government can't get medical marijuana right, how can we expect it to run a national health care system?

Sincerely,

Dale Gieringer, Ph.D.  
Director, California NORML  
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