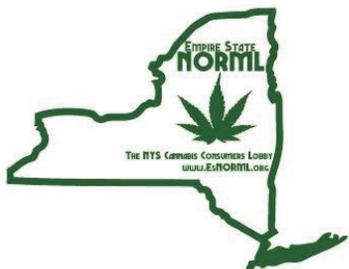


Our Goals

- **Bring about the end to the unjust prohibition of Cannabis in New York State.**
- **Fight for the tens of thousands of cannabis consumers in New York.**
- **Honor the rights of every adult in New York State to use cannabis responsibly, without the fear of breaking the law.**
- **Defend the rights of seriously ill patients whose doctors recommend cannabis's medicinal use.**
- **To expand access to New York's severely limited and newly passed Medical cannabis law.**
- **Support industrial and agricultural use as a way to bolster New York State's struggling economy.**



Join Empire State NORML!

<u>Membership Level</u>	<u>Donation Amount</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Standard membership	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated Membership	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Highly Educated Membership	\$420.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership	\$1000.00
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Do you want to Volunteer? **Yes**
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Children and Cannabis



Empire State NORML



NYNORML



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Prohibition Creates the Gateway

For decades the prime argument for criminalizing cannabis was the gateway drug theory. Its proponents claimed that a teen who used cannabis would be much more likely to use harder drugs in the future. Questioned since its conception, the edifice of the theory came crumbling down in 1999 when the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, a federal government body, came to the conclusion that "there is no conclusive evidence that the drug effects of marijuana are causally linked to the subsequent abuse of other illicit drugs."



If anything, our policy of lumping the nations most used illicit drug — a drug that cannot feasibly be overdosed on — in with hard drugs is more culpable for the use of hard drugs than cannabis. The only legalized forms of cannabis in the United States can be found in the 23 States (and D.C.) that have lifted the prohibition on medical use. In each state critics of the medical cannabis laws have alleged that this

partial legalization

would lead to increased use by teenagers. These

are same critics that

probably still tout

the gateway drug

theory.



When economists

at Montana State University decided to test the claims of those critics they found little

evidence to support their argument. Using

national and state data on teen use they concluded that the results of their statistical

models "are not consistent with the

hypothesis that the legalization of medical

marijuana caused an increase in the use of marijuana and other substances among high

school students."

In many cases the researchers even found

that there was a negative relationship

between the existence of a medical cannabis

law and the use of cannabis by that states

high school students. Meaning that the rate

of teen use declined after the passage of a

medical cannabis law.

First Principle of Responsible Cannabis Use

(As adopted by the NORML Board of Directors) **I. Adults Only - Cannabis consumption is for adults only. It is irresponsible to provide cannabis to children.**

Many things and activities are suitable for young people, but others absolutely are not. Children do not drive cars, enter into

contracts, or marry, and they must not use drugs. As it is unrealistic to demand lifetime

abstinence from cars, contracts and marriage, however, it is unrealistic to expect lifetime abstinence from all intoxicants,

including alcohol. Rather, our expectation and hope for young people is that they grow up to be responsible adults. Our obligation to

them is to demonstrate what that means.

This provision does not apply to the physician supervised and recommended use of medical cannabis by patients of any age.



DRUG DEALERS DO NOT CHECK ID.

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