



LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS

LP ILLINOIS SUPPORTS MEDICAL MARIJUANA BILL

It's no secret that Libertarians support the legalization of all drugs and the end to the so called "War on Drugs." For decades, billions of dollars have been spent, numerous lives have been lost, and law enforcement priorities have been misdirected in order to stop the distribution, sale and use of substances such as marijuana, cocaine and heroin. We have filled the prisons, but money continues to be wasted, the black market thrives and innocent people, including children, keep dying in an attempt to prevent something that individuals immerse themselves in of their own free will.

SB 1381, The Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act, is a good start and is supported by the Libertarian Party of Illinois ("LP Illinois"). The bill, introduced by State Senator William Haine (D-Alton), would allow people with certain types of medical conditions, such as glaucoma, epilepsy and chemotherapy for cancer to use marijuana to ease their discomfort. These individuals would need the diagnosis of a physician and the amounts of marijuana that they would be able to legally possess would be limited under the bill.

Presently, anyone who uses marijuana for medical purposes is classified as a criminal and can be punished as such. This would include hard working people with families who only want to alleviate their suffering and better spend time with their loved ones. The use of any type of substance, including alcohol, is a personal choice and should never be deemed a crime.

LP Illinois supports the passing of SB 1381. It is our hope that Illinois joins 13 other states that have already legalized the compassionate use of medical marijuana, and we also encourage the dozen or so other states who have similar bills pending to pass them. It is time to focus on crimes in which there is a victim, and allow those less fortunate the dignity to live their lives as pain free as possible.

The Libertarian Party of Illinois is a political home for those who value honesty, fairness, respect, responsibility and compassion.

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