



Here in the Lone Star State, medical doctors and thousands of seriously ill Texans are prohibited from recommending/receiving the known benefits of medical marijuana. **Over 74,000 Texans are arrested every year for possession of small amounts of marijuana** and subject to jail, prison, courts, fines, fees, probation, and a life long criminal record.

The prohibition and over-criminalization of the use and possession of personal amounts of marijuana have had a negative impact on individuals and our culture as a whole. Many polls and reputable studies indicate that the people of Texas recognize that our heavy-handed marijuana laws are antiquated and in need of reform.

**Texans for Responsible Marijuana Policy working, with numerous like-minded organizations, will have a bold and broad approach to reforming the out-dated policies related to the use and possession of marijuana.** We will endeavor to garner bi-partisan support for three separate bills to be filed in each chamber of the Texas Legislature. Additionally, we will lead a high output advocacy campaign on behalf of these bills as well as a constant professional lobby effort.

Three separate bills have been submitted by Texas Legislators to the Legislative Council for drafting. The bills are as follows:

- **Medical Marijuana** – This bill is similar to Arizona and Nevada’s medical marijuana laws. It allows seriously ill patients to obtain and use medical marijuana with their doctors’ certifications and allows state-licensed cultivators and dispensaries to produce and provide patients with safe access to medical marijuana.
- **Civil Penalty for Simple Possession** – This bill reduces the current criminal offense of possession of small amounts of marijuana — carrying a possible arrest and jail time — to a civil penalty punishable by a simple fine. It will allow law enforcement to focus on serious crimes.
- **Replacing Marijuana Prohibition With a Legal Market** – Voters in four states have passed laws to take marijuana sales off the criminal market and to regulate the product like alcohol. This bill would allow adults 21 and older to legally use marijuana, and would replace the underground market for marijuana with a legal, taxed market that would create many thousands of new jobs.

For more information about this initiative, please contact:

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