

For Immediate Release Thursday, September 5, 2002

ACTIVISTS TO PROTEST LATEST DEA RAIDS ON MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES IN CALIFORNIA AT FEDERAL COURTHOUSE IN MADISON FRIDAY AT NOON

On Thursday September 5, just days away from the one year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has again moved to subvert democracy by raiding yet another California medical marijuana provider. This time the target was one of California's oldest and most respected medical marijuana dispensaries, the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana in Santa Cruz, California, a clinic that has been legally operating under California law since 1996.

WAMM is a non-profit collective representing the most severely ill (mainly terminal) patients. The highly regarded collective has helped hundreds of terminally ill patients stay alive and has the full support of the local and state authorities.

Americans For Safe Access (www.safeaccessnow.org), a national advocacy group that also coordinated the June 6 national day of action that included events in over 50 U.S. cities including Madison, is calling for activists around the country to gather at noon on Friday September 6 to protest the latest DEA assaults on sick and dying Americans, and has also issued the following demands:

1. We demand that all prosecutions of medical marijuana patients, growers, and dispensaries cease immediately.
2. We demand that President Bush & Attorney General Ashcroft declare a moratorium on the Federal anti-medical marijuana campaign.
3. We demand President Bush declare his support for HR 2592, the States' Rights to Medical Marijuana Act.

Madison medical marijuana patient/activist Gary Storck was outraged. "That the DEA would again target sick people, this time practically on the eve of the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks is a slap in the face to every American. With the nation's oldest medical marijuana law on the books here in Madison, and the likelihood the Wisconsin Legislature will be taking up this issue again next session, it is imperative people here speak out."

Is My Medicine Legal YET? Founder Jacki Rickert was also incensed, "Why are they doing this? These are law-abiding citizens that are hurting absolutely no one. They're just trying to have the best quality of life that they can for as long as they can. Only God knows how much time we have, and God created cannabis and mankind, but God didn't create these stupid, archaic laws – man did. What's more important money, federal power or lives? My health doesn't allow me to be there in person to express my outrage, but I'll be there in spirit."

Please join us at the Federal Courthouse at 120 N. Henry St. in Madison at Noon on Friday, September 6 to protest the latest attack on sick and dying Americans and federal policies that continue to withhold medicine from some of our nations most vulnerable citizens.

For more information contact Gary Storck, 608.241.8922/608.217.4136, or Jacki Rickert 715.926.4950, or visit the IMMLY website at www.immly.org.