

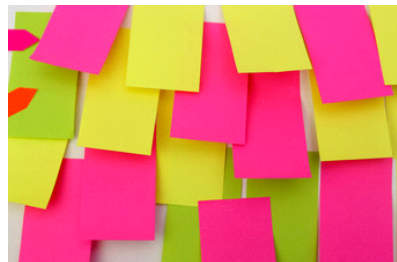
Could A New Memo Shut Down Medical Marijuana?



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No, not that kind of memo.

by Sam Tracy
12:27 p.m. EDT, July 11, 2011

Ever hear of the [Ogden Memo](#)? Back in 2009, the Department of Justice issued a memo telling the feds how to deal with medical marijuana dispensaries (which conflict with state law). It told federal lawyers, you “should not focus federal resources in your States on individuals whose actions are in clear and unambiguous compliance with existing

state laws providing for the medical use of marijuana.” It even went on to say, “prosecution of individuals with cancer or other serious illnesses who use marijuana... is unlikely to be an efficient use of limited federal resources.” Pretty much, the memo discouraged federal raids on dispensaries and patients who comply with state law. Since they’re still violating federal law, the administration couldn’t really just say not to pursue them, so they just strongly suggested not to.

This was hailed as a huge victory for medical marijuana nationwide. Since [16 states, and the District of Columbia, allow medical marijuana](#) (meaning 90 million Americans live in medical marijuana states), it was an unavoidable issue. The Obama administration did a great thing by allowing states to make up their own minds on marijuana.

But just recently, a new memo was issued, and the internet exploded with [reports](#) of it being [a huge step back](#) in drug policy reform. This [new memo](#) states that, “The Department’s view of the efficient use of limited federal resources as articulated in the Ogden Memorandum has not changed.” But then it goes on to say that while they shouldn’t be cracking down on small pot shops or patients, they’re concerned with some newer developments, particularly commercial-scale growing operations ([Oakland was recently considering allowing huge, multimillion-dollar grows](#), and [New Jersey just passed a law allowing six super-dispensaries in the state](#)).

The [main concern](#) now is that the memo didn’t include any specifics on what a “big” operation is, and [raises more questions than it answers](#). This could easily lead gung-ho federal agents to raid any dispensary and claim to be in compliance with the memo, saying they thought their target was big enough. Dispensary owners are worried about a “chilling effect” where they fear expanding their businesses and risking federal intervention.

With all of these memos going around, typically written by people who weren’t even elected, it may see impossible to do anything about ending this federal overreach into states’ marijuana laws. But there is currently a bill in the US House that would end federal prohibition, and allow states to make their own decisions (keep it the same, allow medical, treat it like alcohol, or something totally different). It’s called [H.R. 2306, the Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act of 2011](#). If you want to change things, [urge your lawmakers to support this bill](#). If it passes, we’ll see a major revolution in marijuana laws sweep the nation in a few short years, and won’t have to worry about some memo leading to the arrest of people trying to get medicine to sick people.



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But just recently, a new memo was issued, and the internet exploded with reports of it being a huge step back in drug policy reform. This is truly a step back and just shows the hypocritical nature of Obama. Thanks for the "change I can believe in". This is really sad.
<http://www.How-To-Open-A-Dispensary.com>

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