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Legalize it? Ron Paul, Barney Frank introducing marijuana bill to end federal ban on pot

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By **Geoff Herbert, syracuse.com**
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AP Photo/The San Diego Union-Tribune, David Brooks

In this March 15, 2011 photo, marijuana for medicinal is shown at One on One Patient's Association in San Diego. A new bill being introduced to the House Thursday by Ron Paul and Barney Frank would ask the government to end its federal ban on marijuana.

Should states legalize marijuana?

Rep. Ron Paul (R-Tex.) and Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), along with other congressmen, will introduce new legislation to the House on Thursday, asking to "limit the federal government's role in marijuana enforcement to cross-border or inter-state smuggling."

Rep. Frank's office confirmed the news to **The Wall Street Journal**, but insist the measure is "not a legalization bill." Instead, the bill would allow states to determine whether pot should be legalized. Medical marijuana is currently legal in 16 states, **ProCon** says, but New York is not one of them.

However, selling medical marijuana is currently not legal under federal law, making the issue confusing to states considering legalization. **The Huffington Post** reports DEA agents raided two dozen medical marijuana dispensaries in March in California and Montana, where possession is legal in both states.

Last week, **NJ.com** reported New Jersey Governor Chris Christie said he will not implement the state's medical marijuana law without assurance that the federal government won't prosecute anyone in the program.

According to **CBS News**, a 19-member international panel called the 40-year "war on drugs" a failure in June and recommended legalizing marijuana to stop punishing those who "do no harm to others."

Miss USA 2011 winner Alyssa Campanella said she was "a little bit against" legalization for economic purposes, "but medically it's OK," **USA Today** reports.

What do you think? Should the federal government let the states decide? Should marijuana be legalized in New York?

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dmbcuse

June 23, 2011 at 1:01PM

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that song MAKES you smoke

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ConfusedCuse

June 24, 2011 at 9:44AM

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Hopefully they'll introduce a bill to legalize prostitution next. Its only the correct libertarian thing to do. Consenting adults should have equal rights. What two consenting adults do in private shouldn't be anybody's business. If a guy can marry a guy then we should be able to hire willing entertainers too. It makes no sense that you can blow \$100 on flowers, dinner and a movie trying to get some but you go to jail if you just give her the \$100 instead.

Just like the guy screaming for equal rights to marry another guy, we need equal rights to hire hookers. Fair is fair.

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guyfawkes

June 23, 2011 at 1:17PM

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If a person is dumb enough to believe that role of the government includes passing laws that restrict each individual from making a choice that could have any potential for a negative outcome, then they would come to the same conclusion you did.

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stinkitup

June 23, 2011 at 11:01AM

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Of course it should, then i can turn back the clock.

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Wilson

June 23, 2011 at 12:00PM

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Legalize it, don't criticize it.

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Hunterguy

June 23, 2011 at 11:02AM

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go barney !

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Don'tBlowIt

June 23, 2011 at 11:02AM

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Yes and yes, to both questions

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 **inurbasekillingurdoodz** June 23, 2011 at 11:02AM
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Umm, why did this article need to cite the opinion of a beauty pageant winner? What did that add to the story?

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 **cuseson** June 23, 2011 at 12:33PM
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lol

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 **meatballsoup** June 23, 2011 at 11:08AM
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This is good news. For once the government might have it right. Think of the tax revenue that could be generated. Think of how many fewer people will have to put in jail. Think of the savings to our justice system. This is brilliant!

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 **TFYQA** June 23, 2011 at 11:15PM
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Yep, totally agree, not to mention all the associated businesses.

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 **lurpzerker** June 23, 2011 at 11:08AM
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just left Colorado, pot dispensaries are everywhere, communities making serious \$ off local campus and MMJ users, less crime, more money! dispensaries are called wellness centers and look like spas.....its the new goldrush, people are getting very rich , hydro equip retail booming, rental of industrial space for grows making previous hard to rent space very lucrative. IT IS PLAIN DUMB NOT TO GET ON BOARD WITH THIS! especially in a state with serious \$ problems

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 **Syracuse.com's #1 poster!** June 23, 2011 at 11:11AM
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it's a no brainer, crime, violence, drunk driving would all decrease. Small mom and pop pizza places, chip and candy mfg, video games, rolling papers, music related electronics would see an influx.

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 **mrska57** June 23, 2011 at 3:24PM
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Amen.

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 **TFYQA** June 23, 2011 at 11:16PM
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Cheers! Could not agree more. Something has to replace the manufacturing jobs that are no longer there.

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