

Marijuana advocates launch video campaign targeting Rep. Lamar Smith

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By [Eric W. Dolan](#)
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The marijuana advocacy website [420petition.com](#) and the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) have teamed up to launch a video campaign aimed at House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX).

Reps. Barney Frank (D-MA) and Ron Paul (R-TX) introduced legislation to the U.S. House of Representatives in June that would end the federal prohibition on marijuana, allowing each state to propose and enforce its own marijuana laws without federal interference.

But Rep. Smith, head of the House committee that needs to approve the bill, has vowed to kill it. He said "decriminalizing marijuana will only lead to millions more Americans becoming addicted to drugs and greater profits for drug cartels."

NORML and [420petition.com](#) launched the "Give Pot A Chance" campaign so that people all across the country can create videos urging Rep. Smith to give the bill a hearing.

"NORML and our supporters decided to reach out to Representative Smith this month and let him know we considered HR 2306 sound public policy," said NORML Communications Coordinator Erik Altieri. "Instead of addressing the concerns of the general public, Smith removed his page from Facebook and wiped it clean of any and all comments posted in support of the bill. Why is Rep. Smith ignoring the will of the people on this issue?"

The campaign allows people to go to [420petition.com](#) and submit their personal video responses to Rep. Smith.

"Lamar Smith, has provided both cannabis law reformers and the general public a typical up-close view of why the US Congress—the creator of Cannabis Prohibition laws in 1937 and later the Controlled Substances Act of 1970—rarely seems to work the way it was intended," said NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre. "One person, either ignorant or uninformed, can block consideration of a controversial political issue if he or she wishes to do so."

HR 2306 would limit the federal government to enforcing cross-border or inter-state smuggling laws, and allow people to grow, possess, use or sell marijuana in states where it is legal to do so.

An [ABC News](#) poll found last year that eight in 10 Americans favor legalizing medical marijuana.

Use of the drug as recommended by doctors is currently [permitted in 16 states and Washington, D.C.](#)

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