

## WHO IS BEHIND THE “MEDICAL” MARIJUANA MOVEMENT?

A few billionaires - not broad grassroots support - started and sustain the “medical” marijuana and drug legalization movements in the United States. Without their money and influence, the drug legalization movement would shrivel. For example, four individuals - George Soros, Peter Lewis, George Zimmer, and John Sperling - contributed \$1,510,000 to the effort to pass a “medical” marijuana law in California in 1996, a sum representing nearly 60 percent of the total contributions. [FN1] It is estimated that Peter Lewis has donated between 40 to 60 million dollars to marijuana legalization. [FN2]

There is a lot of misinformation on “medical” marijuana distributed by organizations who want to legalize marijuana. The proposition that smoked marijuana is “medicine” is, in sum, false - trickery used by those promoting wholesale legalization. They have been funded by a few very wealthy advocates for drug legalization. They are:

1. The Marijuana Policy Project (MPP) - funded by Peter Lewis

The Marijuana Policy Project (MPP) provides funding and assistance to states and localities to promote “marijuana as medicine” initiatives and legislation. Yet their vision statement clearly indicates that they have a much broader goal of decriminalizing marijuana. At the same time the marijuana legalization proponents are soliciting support for laws allowing marijuana to be used as medicine, they are working to modify policies to regulate marijuana similarly to alcohol. See, Marijuana Policy Project’s Vision and Mission Statement. [www.mpp.org](http://www.mpp.org).

2. The Drug Policy Alliance (DPA) - funded by George Soros

3. The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML)

4. The American Civil Liberties Union - funded by George Soros and Peter Lewis (\$5,000,000)

4. Various state organizations who claim to represent patients or who advocate for “compassion.”

Ballot initiatives have passed by use of major disinformation campaigns financed by wealthy individuals from outside these states. The following is an excerpt that describes this process from the Congressional testimony of Thomas A. Constantine, DEA administrator, before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary in 1996:

Proposition 215 in California and Proposition 200 in Arizona were drafted, financed and supported by legalization proponents using the compassionate pain argument as a guise for their drug legalization agenda. Billionaire financier and legalization advocate George Soros provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in California alone to garner support for the proposition. In Arizona, Soros almost doubled his California donations, a significant portion of which were made through organizations such as the Drug Policy Alliance, with

which he is affiliated. Other donors included representatives from the Progressive Corporation, the Men's Warehouse and other pro-legalization groups.

Proponents waged a sophisticated, misleading campaign, which led voters to believe that the initiatives were simply limited to compassionate pain relief. Opponents of the propositions, including the American Cancer Society, the California Medical Association, the Glaucoma Research Foundation, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the California Narcotics Officers Association and many family groups concerned about the impact of drug legalization on the nation's children, were outspent and out-campaigned by the well-orchestrated effort to legalize drugs on a national basis. These individuals cynically used the suffering and illness of vulnerable people to further their own agenda.”[FN3]

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## **References**

[FN1] “A Guide to Drug Related State Ballot Initiatives.” National Families in Action. April 23, 2002. <http://www.nationalfamilies.org/guide/california215.html>( March 31, 2005).

<http://www.aclu.org/2008/06/10/george-soros-war-on-drugs-is-one-of-the-most-repressive-aspects-in-american-life>

<http://www.aim.org/special-report/the-hidden-soros-agenda-drugs-money-the-media-and-political-power/>

<http://www.snopes.com/politics/business/peterlewis.asp>

[FN2] <http://www.theweedblog.com/marijuana-hero-peter-b-lewis/> 40 to 60

[FN3] Medical Excuse Marijuana, [www.DFAF.org](http://www.DFAF.org)