



DRUG FREE SCHOOLS COALITION OF NEW YORK  
144 Boomhower Rd., Lyon Mt., NY 12952  
Phone 518-735-4729  
drugfreesc@aol.com website: www.studentdrugtesting.org

PLEASE VOTE NO ON SENATE BILL 4041-B  
THE "MEDICAL" MARIJUANA BILL

**THERE ARE TWO FDA APPROVED MEDICINES BASED ON CANNABINOIDS**

**THERE IS NO MEDICAL REASON TO SMOKE MARIJUANA**

This bill will permit the smoking of marijuana (cannabis) as medicine. However, there already are two forms of cannabinoid based medicine that can deliver controlled doses of THC to a patient in the form of a pill. These medicines have proven to be safe and effective and they are approved by the FDA.

One is Marinol which can be controlled for its strength and which delivers none of the harmful side effects of smoking marijuana. Marinol is better for patients because it is safer and more convenient to use than smoked marijuana. **Marinol as an FDA approved drug is covered by medical insurance plans and can be obtained at local drug stores.** The bill does not provide that smoked marijuana is covered under health insurance.

Marinol can be ingested more privately than smoked "medical" marijuana. There is no second hand smoke that will hurt children.

There is also another FDA approved cannabinoid medicine named Cesamet. Cesamet is approved for chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting for people who do not respond to conventional antiemetics. It is also used for the treatment of weight loss for patients with AIDS.

Some people who smoke marijuana have built a tolerance for the drug and claim these pills do not work. If they have a tolerance, then all a doctor has to do is increase the dosage and it will work. They also claim that smoking works faster to get the effect. However, the effect from smoking goes away faster. The pills thus provide a longer period of effect which is better and safer for the person using them. They also claim that some people cannot swallow a pill but pills can be crushed and swallowed with water.

*Source: The Medical Letter on Drugs and Therapeutics, Vol. 48, December 4/18, 2006*