



Working to Reform Marijuana Laws

New Hampshire (2022): House Bill 629, Testimony in support of marijuana depenalization and efforts to allow for home cultivation

My name is Jax James and I serve as the State Policy Manager for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML). I would like to thank the Senate Judiciary for considering House Bill 629. NORML is supportive of legislative efforts to legalize home cultivation and personal possession of cannabis.

House Bill 629 seeks to remove all criminal and civil penalties for the use, possession, and cultivation of marijuana by adults. This bill would permit adults 21 and over to possess up to 3/4 ounce of marijuana and five grams of hashish, and to grow up to six marijuana plants (up to three mature, three immature).

Permitting limited home cultivation permits the ability for adults to have reliable, affordable, and consistent access to cannabis, many of whom would use it medicinally. Adults deserve the option to legally grow a botanical product that is objectively safer than the litany of pharmaceutical drugs it could replace, including those that may not be able to afford or do not live within a reasonable distance from a retail outlet.

Never in modern history has there existed greater public support for repealing the nation's nearly century-long experiment with marijuana prohibition. Statewide polling data shows that 68 percent of New Hampshire adults support “legalizing [the] possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal recreational use.”

The ongoing prohibition of marijuana financially burdens taxpayers, encroaches upon civil liberties, engenders disrespect for the law, impedes legitimate scientific research into the plant's medicinal properties, and disproportionately impacts communities of color.

Lastly, the growing and possessing cannabis is legal in all three states that neighbor New Hampshire, and it should be legal for New Hampshire as well.

For these reasons, NORML urges New Hampshire lawmakers to thoughtfully consider and pass HB 629.

