

The Association of Politically Active Christians

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2010 MEMORANDUM OF OPPOSITION MEDICAL MARIJUANA (S.4041-B/A.9016) Contact: Stephen P. Hayford (518-364-5324)

APAC opposes medical marijuana legislation for the following reasons:

- **Marijuana is dangerous.** Medical marijuana laws have been rejected by the American Medical Association and other medical authorities for good reason. Marijuana contains carcinogenic hydrocarbons, and leads to side effects including paranoia, short-term memory loss, reproductive difficulties, and psychological dependency. The State of New York should not pass laws that allow dangerous drugs to be used.
- **Marijuana is not a legitimate medication.** The bill memorandum sets forth a variety of symptoms that marijuana could allegedly be used to treat. Those symptoms include nausea, appetite loss, pain, and anxiety. However, there are already many different legitimate medications that can be and are successfully used to treat these symptoms. There simply is no need to use a dangerous drug for this purpose.
- **The medical marijuana experiment has backfired in California.** Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. There is no need to repeat California's medical marijuana mistake, even as we see cities in California taking steps to rectify it.
- **Medical marijuana legislation is nothing more than a thinly veiled effort to start the process toward complete decriminalization of marijuana.** It is designed to present marijuana in a positive light so that government and the public will ultimately embrace the recreational use of the drug. Within recent memory, a marijuana advocate was arrested and prosecuted for attempting to bring a marijuana plant into the Capitol, and was later quoted as saying that marijuana is a "gift from God." Decriminalization of marijuana would also make a dangerous, addictive drug widely available. New York should not take steps down this road.