

Approved Medical Marijuana Minute
by
The Manhasset Monthly Meeting
of
The Religious Society of Friends

We are deeply concerned that just as War destroys the lives of innocents on all sides of such conflict, the War on drugs does the same. Demonstrating a complete lack of faithfulness to the precepts of the individual's inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness upon which this country would claim to be founded, the US government substituted a "big brother knows best" position for these inalienable rights when it classified Marijuana as a Schedule 1 drug under the Controlled Substances Act. Said classification requires that the drug in question have no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States. A finding that blindly ignores the facts as they exist as medical use of marijuana has been approved by 17 states and the District of Columbia and has been used for medicinal purposes for hundreds of years. Such classification makes it illegal for the Medical community to prescribe its use as its licensed professionals deem fit in accordance with scientific evidence. This position has resulted in too many innocent victims being deprived of an alternative medical treatment in the State of New York that would be available to them in other countries and even in other states within the US resulting in many cases in unnecessary pain and possibly needless deaths.

Our belief is that every person should be entitled to seek out and receive any medical treatment that duly licensed medical professionals determine can provide them partial or complete relief for their disease and its symptoms as well as relief from the side effects of other accepted treatments. Denying one person such relief because of the possibility of harm to another person because of that other's poor choices is not acceptable.

We therefore urge our Federal representatives to work towards having Marijuana reclassified as a Schedule 2 Drug and urge our State representatives to enact legislation authorizing the use of medical marijuana here in New York¹.

¹This position is supported by the 1972 report of the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse which recommended decriminalization of Marijuana.