

COURT 18
DATE 3/11/11
RE HB 161

Faxed to every member of the Senate Judiciary Committee by John and Jeanette Zentgraf:
My husband and I, who are in our 70's, traveled from Lolo to appear in support of HB 161 at the House Judiciary committee and we would have stood before your committee also, but for a dear friend's funeral tomorrow.

We oppose the medical marijuana law for many good reasons. Unless the law is repealed we citizens will continue to encourage a marijuana culture, which could not have been our intention when we passed the law. The thefts and violence surrounding the growers, providers, and dispensaries will increase. There will be even more marijuana impaired drivers causing accidents. Our children will continue to be encouraged to smoke pot, because of its recognized acceptance and prevalence. As Montana was the 10th state to pass a medical marijuana law there is ample evidence in the 9 other states of all kinds of governmental problems and expenses that have arisen. For example, the city of Los Angeles just defeated a proposed tax of \$2.50 on \$50. worth of marijuana. There are 10 cities in California that have passed such taxes, though it is argued that the taxes hurt those who need it most. "Los Angeles was trying to have a tax on marijuana even as it is trying to shut down most pot shops in town." (The Informer, a Los Angeles newspaper)

We have studied HB68 and SB154 in case your committee does not support HB161. Though well intended the 9 other states could not afford to carefully regulate the growers, providers, and dispensaries with the service of trained investigators. Requiring affidavits from physicians before court orders for patients are provided, requires a costly bureaucracy. The well thought-out rules and regulations in HB68 and SB154 are similar to bills that did not succeed in 9 states because of the cost. It appears that legalization of marijuana will be the next step for these states, just because of the cost of trying to regulate medicinal marijuana. Fees and fines did not supply the needed funds to protect their citizens from the same problems we face today.

Please don't send Montana down this road with such bills. Please repeal the Medical Marijuana Law.