

From: Lou Magnani <loumagnani@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 9:41 AM
To: Maxine Grad
Subject: mj legislation

Dear Ms. Grad,

I just read a quote from you in the Rutland Herald this morning:

“ I am interested in, personally, looking at the penalties for marijuana. I think (decriminalization) has been working very well. I really want to look at lifting those penalties for certain amounts and possibly giving people the ability to grow a few plants,”.

Don't misunderstand; I applaud efforts to legalize pot. But the words, "possibly giving people the ability to grow a few plants," fall way short in my opinion.

I'm 70 and got fed "Reefer Madness" films in grade school. As a HS freshman my best friend's older brother tried smoking pot and we thought he was a goner. When we realized all we had been told was pure propaganda - and I mean that in the most literal way - we no longer relied on advice or fear of punishment to guide our behavior. We relied on friends and became part of the "drug culture". And so it is, and has been, for the generations that followed us. What we are taught is a bunch of lies. And the drug culture thrives and anyone who gets caught up in narcotics lives in it and maybe dies in it.

I've been growing pot since I came up here in 1972. Now I'm legal cause I have a medical card. A friend asked me why I was getting the card cause it didn't make sense to her. I said it was so I could speak out and have written countless letters to you folks, the editor of the Herald, etc. See, I have the ability to grow marijuana and have been using that ability for 45 years. What I would like you to do is recognize that I have a right to exercise my ability to grow and possess a weed. Yes, it is an intoxicant and, like alcohol, has both positive and negative potential consequences. But anyone who has used both is likely to say that pot is more benign.

I haven't read all the new NE laws but thought the Alaska law was the most honest. It treated pot like beer or wine - recognizing an adults right to consume it. It permitted one to grow it - outside or inside - plenty of it - up to a pound of cured dried pot. A good year's supply and then some, in case of crop failure. Anything over that is considered possibly trafficking. Like beer or wine; you can make a barrel of it but you can't start a bottling plant unless you get a permit. And chances are really good that your beer, wine or pot isn't going to be as good as store bought. And eventually we'll come around to getting "store bought" pot.

I take it you are not a gardener. If you were, you would realize that "a few plants" is not realistic. Plants can be male or female and we only want females. So from the start you have to double the seeds you start to get the females you want. And not every seed comes up nor

does every plant survive to maturity. Animals love it and I've lost many young plants to a critter in one day. It's like a row of beans; once a rabbit finds them they aren't going to stop.

Can't we get real about this issue? I've been waiting a long time to see this prohibition end and would really like to see it happen in my lifetime. Please, write a law like Alaska's. Theirs, when written, said they would figure out how to control it like alcohol in time but acknowledged our right to grow and use it effective on passage.

Thanks for hearing me out.....Lou