

Association  
of Student  
Assistance  
Professionals  
of New Jersey

ASAP-NJ



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The “New Jersey Compassionate Use of Medical Marijuana Act” (Bill S119 and A804) will establish a “medical” marijuana program in the State of New Jersey. “Medical” marijuana advocates claim that this will help seriously ill people with cancer, AIDS and glaucoma and claim that these people can get relief by using marijuana.

The Association of Student Assistance Professionals of New Jersey, (ASAP-NJ) was founded in 1983 to meet the needs of New Jersey youth in education, prevention, intervention, and referral services in areas of high-risk behaviors including the use of alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and addictive behaviors. The group is made up of over 300 Student Assistance Coordinators (SACs), prevention specialists, educators, and health care professionals working in public and private schools and its community to facilitate drug prevention programs in adolescent populations.

Although some research has been done to advocate for the use of medical marijuana, The Association of Student Assistance Professionals of New Jersey (ASAP-NJ) believes that further, more adequate and well-controlled studies and review of current data of youth use in states that have legalized marijuana should occur prior to ASAP-NJ’s support of such a law.

Therefore, ASAP-NJ joins the Drug Free Schools Coalition of New Jersey, law enforcement in the State of New Jersey and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and other drug prevention organizations and medical societies in their beliefs that:

- Marijuana is a dangerous, addictive drug that poses significant health threats to users. <sup>1</sup>
- Marijuana has no medical value that can't be met more effectively by legal alternative drugs. <sup>2</sup>
- Marijuana users are far more likely to use other drugs like cocaine and heroin than non-marijuana users. <sup>3</sup>
- Advocacy of legalization laws has a dramatic effect of increasing youth use and that youth use rates tend to remain above national averages following passage of a legalization law. <sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Exposing the Myth of Smoked Medical Marijuana - Marijuana: The Facts. <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/ongoing/marijuana.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Educating Voices, Inc. April 2009. <http://www.educatingvoices.org/EViNews.asp>