

some studies have shown the opposite—that a DARE graduate is actually MORE likely to experiment with illicit drugs than a child who has not gone through DARE.

Proponents of such programs frequently say: “If it helps only one child, it was worth it”. That seems like a mighty low standard. Would a reading curriculum be deemed a success if only one child learned to read? A mathematics program if only one child learned to add and subtract? All one has to do is have a candid talk with any student who has gone through DARE to learn that it is widely regarded as a joke by the very audience it is meant to persuade. Lying to our children is never the best policy, be it in education or in trying to encourage healthy behaviors.

One fifth grade teacher told us that she uses the DARE program as an IQ test. She considers those few students, who do not quickly figure out that DARE is nothing more than a self-serving pack of lies, to be mentally slow.

This information has been brought to you by Michigan NORML, a concerned group of citizens who believe that although the disease of drug addiction is bad, the current cure, the Drug War, is MUCH worse.

Many of us believe that future generations of Americans will view the Drug War as a tragic mistake, and the source of great national shame, much as modern day Germans deeply regret the horrors of the holocaust of the 1930s.

Please visit our web site, where you can learn more about drug law reform and find out how you can help.

www.MINORML.org

Our organization welcomes all people who believe that the drug war must end.

Michigan NORML Needs Your Support!

The single most important thing you can do to end marijuana prohibition is to join MINORML and help us to restore your freedoms. Its time to put to rest the myth that marijuana smoking is a fringe or deviant activity. In reality, marijuana use is extremely common and marijuana is the recreational drug of choice for millions of hard working Americans. Join with us to build a mainstream political constituency that our elected officials can no longer ignore. Let's send a strong message that it is time to stop arresting marijuana smokers.

Michigan NORML members receive:

- One year membership with voting privileges
- One year subscription to the LEAFLET
- MINORML T-shirt – (with \$25 option)
- Invitation to join our on-line e-group
- One year membership in National NORML
- 20% Discount on fees with participating attorneys

Yes! Sign me up as a MINORML member. I want to stop the war against marijuana smokers.

Please select one

_____ Regular \$15 _____ With T-shirt \$25

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

T-shirt size S M L XL
(please circle one)

Please make check out to Michigan NORML and mail to:

MINORML PO Box 640 Eastpointe, MI 48021

You can also join on-line at: **www.MINORML.org**

Or phone us at: **586-873-5084**

We can do this – you can help

The
Drug War
must

because it's
bad for our
Children

Those who insist upon continuing with failed drug control policies frequently state that we need to stay the course “for the sake of our children”. As the following points show, these policy-makers are misguided at best and self-serving at worst. The disinformation and half-truths they expound cover up the fact that the present War on Drugs is very harmful to our children.

People who truly care more about children than about political correctness must join together and demand an end to a failed Drug War and all the collateral damage it causes.

1) By driving drugs underground, the Drug War makes drugs MORE available to our children. Unregulated drug dealers never check ID's, give free samples and have no standards of quality control.

2) Lengthy adult criminal penalties encourage drug dealers to employ minors instead. Some 15-year-olds, not yet having acquired good risk assessment skills, may accept a lot of risk for a few hundred dollars.

3) Drug dealing pays many times more than any other job a young person can get - this undercuts their work ethic and provides an overwhelming temptation to break the law.

4) Draconian and punitive drug laws make children (and adults) who experience adverse reactions to drugs hesitate to get medical help. Such hesitation can be fatal.

5) Many children are killed every year in drive-by shootings, turf battles and other drug war violence. Violence associated with alcohol Prohibition ended in 1933 with the repeal of the 18th Amendment. The over all national crime rate fell by half that year as well.

6) Police have become so focused on “collars for dollars” that they put a lower priority on investigating and arresting people who commit violence against children. The investigation and arrest of violent criminals who prey on children takes a back seat to pursuing drug offenses because crimes against minors provide no opportunity for civil forfeiture or for the small minority of corrupt officers to fill their pockets with untraceable drug dollars.

7) In most cases, children do not benefit from having their parents or caregivers incarcerated. Not only does the incarceration of a parent harm a child financially and emotionally, it also feeds the inter-generational cycle of poverty and crime, greatly increasing the chances that the child, later in life, will be incarcerated. Sometimes, the desire of a child to be with an incarcerated parent is so strong that the minor will commit a crime in the misguided hope that they will be placed in the same cell with their absent parent.

8) When children see their parents' property and homes lost to unwarranted civil forfeitures, it breeds a contempt for the rule of law and our American system of jurisprudence. Remember, 80% of those who lose property to civil forfeiture are never charged with a criminal offense.

9) Driving drugs underground makes them both more available and more attractive to children. High School students frequently report that it is easier for them to get marijuana than beer. In addition, the fact that some drugs are illegal makes them “forbidden fruit” - and therefore much more attractive. In the Netherlands, where personal use of cannabis by adults is tolerated, drug use rates for children aged 9 to 13 are half that of the same age group in the USA.

10) To justify the drug war, we regularly lie to our children. One of the most blatant falsehoods is that marijuana is a dangerous drug that invariably leads to more potent substances such

as LSD, cocaine or Heroin. Another patently ridiculous lie is that mind-altering substances, which include alcohol, can not be used in a moderate and responsible way. Still another lie is that casual/occasional drug use can not co-exist with a long, happy, healthy, successful and productive life. It doesn't take children long to realize that, just as many people can and do consume alcohol in a responsible manner, so too can they use other substances and still be productive members of society.

It is always a serious mistake to lie to a child. Once children see through the drug prohibitionists' long litany of outright lies and half-truths, most often aimed squarely at demonizing marijuana (by all objective standards the safest psycho-active drug on the planet), it is only logical that they discard all warnings about all drugs. This encourages experimentation with truly dangerous drugs like Methamphetamine, coke, and Heroin.

11) Money presently spent building and operating prisons (to house hundreds of thousands of non-violent drug law offenders) could, instead be much better spent on proven substance abuse education, treatment and prevention programs. Programs for teenagers such as After School/Midnight Basketball, vocational education and supported employment and peer mentoring have all been demonstrated to be many times more effective and many times less expensive than hard-line, lock-em up approaches to reducing teen age substance abuse.

12) DARE and other abstinence-only programs are a tremendous waste of scarce educational resources. They are, in essence, “Feel Good” programs that allow parents, educators and communities to feel like they are doing “something” about teen age substance abuse without actually having to do anything. Not a single independent study has ever shown these types of programs to be effective in reducing teenage drug use rates. Not ONE! And in fact,