

America's Clear And Present Crisis

There is little doubt that the most pressing crisis in America today is the so-called War On Drugs. This modern day prohibition has created an environment that affects all of us, in ways that might not be immediately apparent.

What study after study has shown is that the drug prohibition laws have not only failed completely, but have actually made matters worse.

For instance, as a result of the current drug laws, use among teenagers is up more than 7 times over the last 35 years. Overall, homicides are an order of magnitude higher than they were in pre-prohibition days. Crime in general is substantially higher - higher as a result of the drug prohibition.

The reason? Drug prohibition does virtually nothing to stop people from making, selling, buying or using drugs. In fact prohibition *encourages* illegal drugs because prohibition laws keep drug profits high for drug dealers. These high profits are supported by the government's prohibition policies which create our current unregulated drug black market.

The Black Mark Of Black Markets

Of course, with all black markets come severely increased crime and many other tragic injuries to society. Have you stopped for a moment to think about why our cities are plagued with graffiti? Simple - gangs marking their territory. Gangs supported by illegal drug money. Gangs that would disappear if prohibition were replaced with regulation.

Have you wondered why so many innocent Americans have been killed by police officers? It's because the police have been resorting to terror

tactics as a way to enforce the nation's unjust drug laws. Further, the police have become more reliant on paid, anonymous informants. These informants often provide incorrect or dishonest information. The result has been a terrible denial of freedom and civil rights for Americans.

The huge money flow outside this country to drug lords demonstrates the ultimate futility of our nation's policies - the loss of hundreds of billions of dollars of potential tax revenues ending up in the pockets of criminals.

Even gun owners have been subjected to more and more severe gun control laws as a result of the crime wave caused by the war on drugs.

F is for Failure

The drug war has made drugs *more* prevalent in schools, resulted in destroyed civil rights and freedoms, provided higher profits for drug dealers, taken hundreds of billions of dollars in annual tax revenues away from valuable government programs, and promoted higher crime throughout our country.

In other words, the "War On Drugs" has not only failed - it has made matters worse for all of us. The biggest obstacle to winning the war on drugs is the war on drugs itself. It really does not matter if you are *for* or *against* recreational substance use - either way, the war on drugs *must* be brought to an end.

Sincerely,



Andrew M. Somers
President
Drug Action Network

TAKE ACTION!

How do we end the war on drugs? We TAKE ACTION! The purpose of our organization is to encourage a proactive stance to rid our country of the most serious crisis it faces: The War On Drugs.

Come visit our action center online at:
www.DrugActionNetwork.com/action/

At the action center, we want to assist you in taking action to help our nation. It's easy and there's lots you can do! Here's a 5 point plan for getting started:

1) LEARN THE FACTS - Read Judge James Gray's excellent book "*Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed and What We Can Do About It*", and check out the many educational links at the Drug Action Network web site.

2) DISCUSS THE TRUTH - Talk to your family and friends about the issue. What are their viewpoints and what shaped their views? Do they support prohibition? If so, find out why. Encourage them to learn as you have. Show them how prohibition itself is the root of the drug crisis in America.

3) TELL THE POLITICIANS - Write letters to your Congressmen and Senators. Hand signed letters are best, and each letter received through the mail is often considered to represent roughly 5000 voters. Your voice counts! It's easy to get in touch with the politicians that represent you at this site: www.congress.org

4) VOICE YOUR OPINION - Write letters to the editor of your local papers, and even national magazines. A letter to the editor is easy to do and is one of the most effective ways of being heard! Visit the Drug Action Network Action Center for helpful writing tips!

5) GET OTHERS INVOLVED - Get your friends and family involved! Form a local community group, or a group within an existing community organization like the PTA, or in your church or synagogue.

It's an easy plan to follow - and if you make a commitment to yourself to spend just an hour a week, we'll make real progress toward ending the devastating war on drugs!

Together we can make a difference!