



A Better Way Foundation is a Connecticut non-profit organization that is dedicated to a sensible shift in drug policy from one of incarceration to substance abuse treatment and public health.



## *Compassionate Use Campaign*

Join us as we advocate for pain relief and end of life care options for patients who use medical marijuana!

### **One option is Marinol.**

Marinol, a registered trademark of Unimed Pharmaceuticals, Inc., is the commercial name for a product containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). THC is the ingredient in cannabis (marijuana) that gets people “high”.

Problems experienced with Marinol?

- It takes over an hour for Marinol to reach full effect, thus making its use ineffective for people suffering from nausea and vomiting, since they often expel it before it takes effect.
- Many users complain that it costs more and lacks beneficial properties of herbal cannabis
- It is more difficult for users to manage the effects of Marinol.
- Because of the way the body processes ingested Marinol, the “high” is much more intense.

### **Another option is medical marijuana.**

Despite the legality of possessing marijuana, many patients/caregivers prefer the medical marijuana because:

- Compared to Marinol it takes about ten minutes for smoked cannabis to take effect.
- Cannabis smokers can manage their doses by inhaling just enough medicine to manage symptoms.
- It is much more reliable when it comes to managing pain, muscle spasms, nausea, loss of appetite, wasting & other symptoms.

### **- Questions and Answers -**

- Is medical marijuana effective? - **YES** - In 1999, the congressionally charged Institute of Medicine, in the comprehensive study of medical marijuana’s effectiveness, concluded that, “nausea, appetite loss, pain and anxiety . . . all can be mitigated by marijuana.”
- Have patients access to medical marijuana been endorsed? - **YES** - The American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Public Health Association, the American Nurses Association, and the National Association of Attorneys General.
- Have other States passed medical marijuana? - **YES** - 11 States now allow access to medical marijuana Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and, Washington. Several other states are currently considering allowing access.
- Is this about legalization? - **No** - It’s about compassion and protection.
- Does CT support medical marijuana? - **YES** - A 2004 poll conducted by the UCONN Center for Survey and Research Analysis found that 83% of respondents support allowing access to medical marijuana.

A Better Way Foundation

P.O. Box 942  
Hartford, CT 06101  
860-270-9586

127 Martin Street  
Hartford, CT 06120  
860-293-0626