



California **NORML**

National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws
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Mar 28th, 2012

Senator Loni Hancock, Chair
Senate Public Safety Committee
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Chairperson Hancock:

California NORML wishes to express our support for SB 1506 (Leno), which would de-felonize simple possession of controlled substances, including concentrated cannabis and hashish, to misdemeanors.

The distinction in California law between concentrated cannabis and marijuana is obsolescent. Both have the same active ingredient, each has the same effects, and in many instances hashish is less potent than today's marijuana. Yet while the legislature has rightly decriminalized possession of marijuana, hashish remains a wobbler. As a result, many users are wrongly arrested, jailed and charged with felonies for simple possession of hashish or brownies.

It is a wasteful misuse of law enforcement resource to treat the mere possession of controlled substances as a felony. This is especially so when more dangerous offenses, such as assault and battery, are misdemeanors. We urge the legislature to correct this injustice by approving SB 1506.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale H. Gieringer". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Dale H. Gieringer, Ph.D.
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