

Increasingly, however, they have abandoned even this pretense, and made clear that their goal is the legalization or decriminalization of narcotic drugs.

One activist called it the "leaky bucket strategy . . . legalize it in one area, and sooner or later it will trickle down into the others." The bucket is now leaking faster.

The Governor of Hawaii just signed into law state legislation that purports to allow the "medical" use of marijuana, even though it's still illegal under federal law. Five states have enacted laws by ballot initiative that purport to allow so-called "medical" use of marijuana under state laws: Alaska, California, Maine, Oregon and Washington. In furtherance of that strategy, pro-drug activists are now attempting to pass ballot initiatives for the November elections in six states to virtually decriminalize marijuana by removing criminal penalties for its use in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Massachusetts, and Michigan.

These initiatives have already given us such Alice-in-Wonderland moments as the "nation's first bed and breakfast inn catering to medical marijuana users" in Santa Cruz, California. This "establishment" was featured in *People* magazine with a smiling couple holding marijuana plants in front of their home, which is said to contain cannabis-themed tiles on the sidewalk, and hemp curtains and towels. That really sounds like a "medical" facility to me. We've also seen the bizarre decision by the Oakland City Council to declare a "public health emergency" after a court closed the city's medical marijuana club, and the issuance of photo ID cards supposedly allowing marijuana use by the Arcata, California police chief.

But this is all an illusion—states can't permit marijuana use, because it's illegal under federal law. The legalization initiatives mislead the public into breaking federal law and directly counter congressional policies against drug use and the provisions of the federal Controlled Substances Act. Today, I am introducing legislation to stop this charade once and for all, with the support of my colleagues on the Speaker's drug task force and others, including Task Force Co-Chair MCCOLLUM, Chairman MICA of the Drug Policy Subcommittee, Chairman GILMAN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. MYRICK, Mr. FOLEY and Mr. BAKER.

Federal law is ordinarily assumed to preempt contrary state laws. However, the Federal Controlled Substances Act does not contain an express preemption clause, and currently has language stating that the intent of Congress is not to occupy the entire field of regulation of narcotic drugs. In light of the state initiatives, federal courts could potentially interpret the language of state efforts to regulate narcotics as legally harmonious and proper. In fact, one federal district judge has already argued in non-binding language that Congress intended federal law to regulate drug trafficking, and not "medical" marijuana use.

My bill will remove any potential loophole or ambiguity by clearly declaring that it is the intent of Congress for federal law to supersede any and all laws of states and local governments purporting to authorize the use, growing, manufacture, distribution or importation of any controlled substance which differs from

the provisions of the Controlled Substances Act and the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act. It would also expressly declare such state and local enactments as null and void. If enacted, the bill would decisively prohibit federal and state judges from giving any effect to drug legalization initiatives and legislation, and send an equally clear message that Congress will not tolerate backdoor efforts to legalize narcotic drugs.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is not my bill—it belongs to our mothers, fathers, families and our communities. It has strong support from numerous community groups and coalitions, narcotics activists, and tireless anti-drug advocates, who have worked closely with my office in drafting this bill. I would particularly like to acknowledge and thank Joyce Nalepka of America Cares, who first raised this important issue with me. I look forward to working with the anti-drug community to pass this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting and passing it.

[From *People* Magazine, June 12, 2000]

JOINT VENTURE—WHEN POT'S PRESCRIBED,
THE HIGH WAY LEADS TO THE COMPASSION
FLOWER INN

At the Compassion Flower Inn in Santa Cruz, Calif., there are smokers—and there are smokers. Cigarette smokers are banished to the front porch. Smokers, on the other hand, may feel they've died and gone to pot. Cannabis-themed tiles adorn the sidewalk outside. Curtains, linens and towels are made of hemp. And . . . say, what is that funny smell, anyway?

The five-bedroom bed-and-breakfast, just a stoner's throw from the beach, exists as a safe—and perfectly legal—haven for people who smoke marijuana for medical reasons. "Motel 6 guests probably smoke it quietly in their rooms," says Andrea Tischler, 57, who with her partner, Maria Mallek-Tischler, 46, opened the inn in a restored Victorian in April. "This is more out of the closet."

Guests who show up hoping to be provided with marijuana go away disappointed; the Compassion Flower is strictly BYOP. And, as required by California law, a doctor's note is also necessary. Tischler, who grew up in Chicago, and German-born Mallek-Tischler, a couple since 1979, have been pot-legalization activists since the 1980s in San Francisco. "We had a lot of friends with AIDS," says Tischler. "They were taking AZT, and marijuana seemed to bolster their appetite."

Out in the sunshine-soaked "toking area," a new arrival, Scott Byer, 53, of Clearlake, Calif., who smokes to ease spinal pain, has taken out a small porcelain pipe and is filling it. He doesn't even have his room key yet.

A GREAT AMERICAN POINT OF
LIGHT, EILEEN D. COOKE

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, Eileen D. Cooke was first and foremost a librarian, a member of the profession that knows where to find the information about any phenomenon known to human kind. She started her career as a bookmobile librarian for the Minneapolis Public Library. She concluded her career as a well-

known Washington lobbyist. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn the loss of Eileen Cooke and to salute her as a great American Point of Light.

As a result of Eileen Cooke's efforts the library profession moved into the mainstream of the political process. She demanded that the federal government recognize and respect libraries as universal institutions in our democratic society which deserve greater and more consistent support. Her years as Director of the ALA Washington Office were marked by increases in federal funds for libraries, new initiatives in legislation, and opportunities for library participation in a wide range of federal assistance programs. As a Congressman who is also a professional librarian I became a partner with Ms. Cooke in the drive to achieve priority status for libraries in the overall effort to accomplish a better educated America.

With indefatigable optimism Eileen Cooke worked with Members of Congress, staff assistants, educational and cultural organizations, and all others who supported education and libraries. She brought to ALA and library services greater visibility and understanding. Her exceptional leadership skills enabled her to develop and maintain a small but dedicated, energetic and productive staff. She left a cadre of experienced and skillful followers as a potent and enduring legacy.

After joining the ALA Washington Office, she lectured at several of the library schools and spoke at many of the annual conferences of the state library associations. She served on the boards of several Washington-based organizations; was the first woman president of the Joint Council on Educational Telecommunications; served on the Board of Visitors of the School of Library and Information Service Satellite Consortium; and on the Advisory Council of the Home and School Institute, Inc.

During her tenure in Washington, Eileen Cooke worked on every major piece of library legislation and helped prepare witnesses to testify before Congress. This includes, among other issues, the Library Services and Construction Act, the Higher Education Act, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Medical Library Assistance Act, Copyright Revision Act, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, both bills calling for a White House Conference on Library and Information Services, as well as the various annual appropriations bills to fund these programs.

On the occasion of her retirement, former ALA President and Director of the District of Columbia Public Library, Hardy Franklin, described Eileen Cooke as a "51st State Senator on Capitol Hill." She was a fighter capable of hard-nose analysis but always focused and deliberative. She was a coalition builder who won both fear and admiration from her adversaries. Above all she had vision and could see far ahead of the government decision-makers. She understood the nature of the coming "Information Superhighway" and could predict the vital role of libraries and librarians as the traffic signals on this expressway into the cyber-civilization of the future.

Mr. Speaker, the work of Eileen D. Cooke benefits all Americans. She has won the right to be celebrated and saluted as a Great American Point-of-Light.

DEPOSIT INSURANCE INCREASE
FEASIBILITY ACT OF 2000

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, recently, I introduced H.R. 4603, the "Deposit Insurance Increase Feasibility Act of 2000." I decided to introduce this bill after being contacted by various representatives of the financial services community who are interested in researching the feasibility of increasing the current deposit insurance coverage limit, which has been set at \$100,000 since the early 1980s. Several different proposals crossed my desk, but I decided to take the more moderate and prudent approach for the time being. My bill, H.R. 4603, the "Deposit Insurance Increase Feasibility Act of 2000," would, I believe, take the proper approach to this question at this time.

As introduced, H.R. 4603 will require two different studies and reports on the feasibility and potential impact of increasing the maximum amount of deposit insurance under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act and the Federal Credit Union Act from \$100,000 to \$200,000 per depositor and require the noted U.S. financial services regulatory agencies to recommend an appropriate deposit insurance level for both banks and credit unions but through two separate but equal studies. The bill would also require two separate but equal reports to be submitted to Congress six months after the date of enactment of the legislation.

Congress has often been accused of jumping the gun and failing to thoroughly research an issue prior to acting. Congress has also been accused in the past of failing to move in a timely manner on numerous issues. Case in point is the decades Congress spent reviewing the potential reform of the Glass-Steagall Act before finally enacting financial services reform legislation last year in the form of S. 900, which I supported. For these reasons, I decided to introduce this bill in the form of a study instead of an immediate increase in deposit insurance coverage. The study will hopefully acknowledge that deposit insurance has become an indispensable part of the financial services landscape while promoting consumer trust and confidence in all U.S. financial institutions. More importantly, the two studies will provide Congress with the recommendations it will need by both the banks and credit union regulatory agencies to thoroughly assess all possible ramifications of any change in the level of insurance coverage. In this way, few will attempt and virtually none will be able to say that Congress acted imprudently. The fact that the studies and reports are to be completed and submitted within six months of the date of enactment of my bill provides enough time for a thorough review of the issue while also permitting Congress to access the studies and reports in a timely manner, and hopefully move on the recommendations sooner rather than later. Such studies and reports should serve to permit those regulatory agencies which have recently expressed concern about increasing the deposit insurance limit to \$200,000 to participate in the review of the coverage limit and to provide a specific coverage limit recommendation to Congress. I should stress that this bill does not mandate

an increase. It calls for two studies and two reports on the subject. It provides for parity by including all the financial institutions regulatory agencies in the deliberations.

I have received a letter of strong support for H.R. 4603 from America's Community Bankers, which represents the nation's community banks of all charter types and sizes, and a letter strongly supporting the bill on behalf of the Credit Union National Association and the 78 million credit union members nationwide. I would ask that both letters be inserted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD immediately following this statement. I look forward to the bill's enactment and to receiving the dual reports in Congress sometime in the near future.

CREDIT UNION
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.,
Madison, WI, June 9, 2000.

Hon. CHARLES GONZALEZ,
*Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN GONZALEZ: On behalf of the Credit Union National Association (CUNA) and the 78 million credit union members nationwide, I am writing to express our support for the legislation you introduced yesterday, H.R. 4603.

CUNA and its member credit unions believe deposit insurance has become an indispensable part of the financial services landscape and has contributed significantly to consumer trust and confidence in all depository institutions. Because of this important role, CUNA strongly urges Congress to thoroughly assess all possible ramifications of any change in the level of insurance coverage, and we are encouraged by your proposed studies.

CUNA also favors the feature of the legislation that calls for a separate study of the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF). Operationally and structurally, the NCUSIF is unique among federal insurance funds and merits an appraisal that considers and evaluates its distinctions.

We commend you for the prudent and sound approach you have taken to this important and complex issue. CUNA looks forward to playing a helpful role in the enactment of H.R. 4603, and I encourage you to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

DANIEL A. MICA,
President and CEO.

AMERICA'S COMMUNITY BANKERS,
Washington, DC, May 26, 2000.

Hon. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE GONZALEZ: America's Community Bankers strongly supports your draft bill, the "Deposit Insurance Feasibility Act of 2000." America's Community Bankers represents the nation's community banks of all charter types and sizes. ACB members pursue progressive, entrepreneurial and service-orientated strategies in providing financial services to benefit their customers and communities.

Bankers would welcome an increase in deposit insurance. ACB cautions, however, that bankers need to know first whether they would incur an increase in premiums or other costs. That is why we are particularly pleased that your bill would help answer this important question.

Taking inflation into account, the coverage limit today could be increased and indexed to prevent further erosion. But if an increase in insurance coverage merely resulted in a reshuffling of deposits among banks, a redistribution might be particularly damaging for smaller community banks and their customers.

Again, ACB strongly supports your draft bill, and stands ready to offer any assistance at our disposal.

Sincerely,

ROBERT R. DAVIS,
*Managing Director,
Government Relations.*

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 28, 2000 during the Democratic motion to recommit H.R. 4680, my pager malfunctioned.

As a result, I was not aware of the ongoing vote, and as a result I was prevented from participating.

However, if present I would have voted "yes" on this measure (Vote 356).

COMMENDING THE FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF CEDARTOWN YOUTH
CHOIR FOR PARTICIPATING IN
THE NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF
YOUTH CHOIR

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the opportunity to meet with a very special group of young people from my home district in Georgia. The First Baptist Church Youth Choir, from Cedartown, Georgia, are in Washington to participate in the Fourth Annual Nation's Capital Festival of Youth Choirs.

The festival this year is being hosted by the First Baptist Church of Alexandria, Virginia. The festival, first started as a result of efforts of Randy Edwards, a pastor from Shreveport, Louisiana, who formed "Youth Choirs, Inc.," a non-profit organization. This organization was dedicated to building church youth choirs across denominational lines. The festival choir consists of 300 youth from across the nation.

The festival is limited to 300 singers, and this year is made up of 17 youth choirs from throughout the country. I was honored to spend time with the First Baptist Church of Cedartown Youth Choir. The group consists of high school students who are members of this church and the Second Avenue Baptist Church in Rome, Georgia. They were accompanied on this trip by their church music directors, Mitch Huskison of Cedartown, and Joe Preston of Rome, and several proud parents.

This choir from Georgia, along with those from other parts of the country, will deliver the prelude on Sunday, July 2nd at National Cathedral. The choirs, accompanied by an orchestra, will also present a "grand concert" at the First Baptist Church of Alexandria, Virginia.

In a world in which media attention frequently focuses on reporting youth violence, crime, lack of family values, and problems with our educational systems, it would behoove us all to take a moment to recognize the Christian young people who have worked to pay for this trip; and who have prayed for their leaders, their bus driver, the chaperones, all the