

The “War” on Drugs

NMCDLA believes that:

□The “war” on drugs has failed because, in its 30-year history, drug use and drug smuggling has increased dramatically while hundreds of thousands of families have been devastated by criminal penalties that have done nothing to make our communities safer.

NMCDLA supports compassionate, just and effective alternatives to incarceration such as:

- Laws that divert drug users into treatment rather than prison.
- Policies that address the problems of addiction and substance abuse and recognize that these problems are illnesses. Just as we would never think of sentencing a cancer patient to prison, we should not waste thousands of taxpayer dollars by sentencing people with the illness of addiction to jail or prison.
- Models for treating substance abuse including the military’s policy for treating enlisted personnel with drug addiction. These models focus on intensive treatment, rigorous random testing, and counseling designed to address the underlying causes of addiction.
- Eliminating barriers to employment for people with drug convictions and a ban on bias-based policing which disproportionately targets poorer communities.

NMCDLA opposes:

- The incarceration of individuals with non-violent drug possession arrests.
- Policies and practices that criminalize drug addiction, are expensive, inhumane, and ineffective.

For further information,
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