

consideration the bill (H.R. 5672) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Hinchey amendment.

I acknowledge that this is a controversial issue, and it has been a difficult decision for me. While scientific evidence is inconclusive and the medical community has yet to speak with one voice as to whether there is a unique, therapeutic benefit to inhaled marijuana, some studies suggest that marijuana can relieve pain, nausea, and appetite loss. I have heard from many patients, suffering from some of life's most challenging conditions, who have informed me that the therapeutic value of inhaled marijuana is unmatched. I have always supported further study of medical marijuana because of the potential to ease the suffering of the many Americans dealing with chronic illness and disease.

While I have not supported amendments similar to this one in the past, the issue is different for me this year, as the Representative from the Second Congressional District of Rhode Island. Since we last debated this issue in June 2005, the state legislature of Rhode Island has passed—and the state Department of Health has implemented—a law allowing for legal access to medical marijuana. Under this law, the state established a registry that issues identification cards to qualifying patients or caregivers who register with the state. These patients, who suffer from an approved list of conditions including cancer, multiple sclerosis and AIDS, must provide certification from a Rhode Island physician. Once approved in the registry, the patient or a designated caregiver is permitted to possess up to a certain amount of cultivated marijuana and to grow up to 12 marijuana plants. The statewide discussion over the issue made clear that my constituents overwhelmingly support regulated access to marijuana for medical purposes; and the state legislature responded with overwhelming support by overriding a governor's veto with significantly more than the necessary 2/3 support in each chamber. I am aware that I now represent some constituents who are using medical marijuana, in compliance with state laws. I am also aware that under federal law, these Rhode Island patients run the risk of being arrested and prosecuted for federal drug offenses—and this troubles me greatly.

My vote for the Hinchey amendment should not be interpreted as an unconditional endorsement of medical marijuana. I do believe the therapy deserves further clinical trials and scientific scrutiny. As we move forward with these policy discussions, we must bear in mind that marijuana is a narcotic and therapeutic usage must be carefully controlled. However, I rise today in support of the Hinchey amendment because I do not want my constituents, or those of the ten other states that have passed similar laws, to live in fear of arrest when they are complying with state law.

I urge my colleagues to support the Hinchey amendment, as well as the further study of the therapeutic value of medical marijuana.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 27, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5672) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota, Mr. KENNEDY to H.R. 5672, the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2007.

The amendment in question would increase the funding for the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program by \$50 million which would bring the committee's total mark for the program to \$608 million. I strongly believe passage of this amendment is critical. The Edward Byrne Justice Grant Program provides States and local units of government the necessary flexibility in creating programs to address local needs when it comes to crime prevention and enforcement.

A prime example of how this funding can lead to great success in a community happened just yesterday back in my home district. In LaSalle County, Illinois, a anti-drug task force was established to address the growing problem of drug use in many of their communities.

Yesterday, this anti-drug task force arrested the brother of the head of the Chicago-based gang called Gangsters Disciples for dealing heroin and cocaine in the county. The apprehension of this dangerous criminal will further reduce the heroin and cocaine flowing into LaSalle County.

The reason this arrest was such a great success story of the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program is that the task force is funded almost entirely by Byrne grant funding. The success story in LaSalle County, Illinois, is one of many from the Byrne grant program.

In closing Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman FRANK WOLF for providing a \$142 million increase from last year's funding level for our local police forces. I also want to thank Congressman KENNEDY for offering this critical amendment that will provide our local law enforcement officers with a larger pool of funding to further protect our communities. I urge all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to support its passage.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 28, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 5672) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Chairman, June 28, 2006, I voted in favor of the Hinchey amendment to H.R. 5672, the FY 2007 Science, State, Justice, and Commerce Appropriations Act.

Eleven states have passed laws to allow the use of medical marijuana. This amendment would prohibit federal funds from being used to prevent the states of Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Rhode Island, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, or Washington from implementing state laws authorizing a physician to prescribe the use of medical marijuana for their patients in those states. I voted for this amendment because I do not believe that the federal government should be preempting state medical laws approved by either the state legislature or voter referendum.

I served as Johnson County District Attorney for 12 years. I do not believe in the legalization of drugs. But this amendment has to do with compassion for people who are suffering from horrible pain or may be dying, and the ability of doctors in states in which those people live to provide means by which their suffering can be relieved.

Medical marijuana may alleviate suffering from debilitating diseases such as AIDS, cancer, glaucoma and multiple sclerosis. Some contend it has no medicinal value whatsoever. Regardless of one's opinions within this debate, the federal government should not be spending our limited funding for law enforcement to target American citizens in states where the voters or the legislature have passed laws allowing for the use of medical marijuana. To be clear, this amendment would do nothing to legalize marijuana use for any purpose in states, such as Kansas, where voters or the legislature have not approved measures to allow marijuana for medical use.

Under the provisions of this amendment, patients in states that have enacted laws to allow the use of medical marijuana would be prescribed the medication under the direction and careful supervision of their physician. Patients would not be permitted to use this medication for any other purpose.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF  
MASSEY PALMER BEDSOLE, JR.

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 2006*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, the city of Mobile and, indeed, the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Born in Mobile on July 21, 1928, Massey Palmer Bedsole, Jr., graduated from University Military School and then Virginia Military Institute. Upon graduation from V.M.I., Palmer served 2 years as an infantry officer, 1 year as an intelligence officer and later, in Korea, during the Korean War.

As a native of Mobile, Palmer was known by many as a champion of the arts, civic leader and philanthropist.

For many years, he was the chairman of the J.L. Bedsole Foundation, which focuses primarily on civic projects. Among other things,