

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on the Judiciary

Washington, DC 20515-6216
One Hundred Twelfth Congress

June 21, 2011

The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

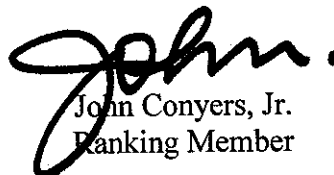
I am writing to request clarification of the Administration's position on medical marijuana, and to ask about the status of the Department of Justice's policy articulated in the October 19, 2009 Memorandum from Deputy Attorney General David W. Ogden to selected United States Attorneys about Investigations and Prosecutions in States Authorizing the Medical Use of Marijuana (hereinafter, the "Ogden Memo"). I am also requesting information about the status of federal prosecutions in states that have medical marijuana laws.

My understanding is that you will soon be offering clarifying guidance about this policy. I was, and remain, very supportive of the Administration's policy in the Ogden memo, which respects the rights of states to provide safe access to medical marijuana for patients and people suffering from drug problems. I hope you will continue to honor the spirit of that policy.

I know we share the goals of stemming drug abuse, reducing violent crime, and saving money for our taxpayers, and I appreciate your consideration of these issues as you clarify the Department's position on state medical marijuana laws.

Thank you for your tireless work on behalf of our country. Please do not hesitate to contact me for additional information.

Sincerely,


John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member

cc: The Hon. Lamar Smith
Chairman