

Annual Report



S.O.S. 
Save Our Society From Drugs™

2013



Save Our Society From Drugs works to uphold and advocate for sound drug policies in our country. Working together, we can and will continue to utilize proven scientific research data and strategies to successfully educate state and federal legislators around the country on the harmful impact drugs have on our nation's youth and society as a whole. Thank you for all of your dedication and support to this vital undertaking.

President and Founder
Betty S. Sembler

As Save Our Society From Drugs (S.O.S.) prepares for 2014, we wish to express our warmest thanks for your support, dedication and tireless efforts in fighting against drug legalization. For the future of our children and our communities, S.O.S. continues to lead the way in pushing back against the legalization efforts which harm our nation. More than ever, S.O.S. is committed to promoting sound drug policies that are in the best interest of our citizens, young and old, from every community across the United States. We extend our heart-felt gratitude and appreciation for your continued support and commitment to the mission of S.O.S.



Executive Director and
Founding Board Member
Calvina Fay

ADDITIONAL OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Secretary/Treasurer

Stephanie Haynes, Advisory Board Member
Drug Prevention Network of the Americas

Director

Jim Frishe, Blue Herron Consulting, Inc.

Director

T. Williard Fair, President, Greater Miami Urban League

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Save Our Society From Drugs (S.O.S.) was founded by community activist and drug prevention/education specialist Betty S. Sembler. The purpose of S.O.S. is to help Americans defeat ballot initiatives, statutory proposals and other attempts to “medicalize” unsafe, ineffective and unapproved drugs such as marijuana, heroin and crack cocaine.

S.O.S. works to prevent, counter and refute all drug legalization efforts throughout our nation. Through grassroots and direct lobbying, education and all other legal means at our disposal, we work to reduce illegal drug use, drug addiction and drug-related illness and death.

Save Our Society From Drugs is incorporated in the District of Columbia under Internal Revenue Code 501 (c)(4) as a nonprofit organization.

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STATE LEGISLATION



In 2013, 49 states introduced 340 pieces of legislation that sought to reduce illicit drug use and abuse. This number is very similar to what we saw in 2012 and was a significant increase from 2011 and 2010 when 299 and 154 bills were introduced. Of the 340 bills introduced, 70 were signed into law.

Policies aimed at combating prescription drug diversion and abuse continued to be a legislative priority in many states, as did efforts to ban the sale of synthetic designer drugs. Successful legislation included:

- expanding current prescription drug monitoring programs in Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Maryland and North Dakota;
- enhancing DUI testing and laws in Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Montana and Oregon;
- banning or restricting the sale of synthetic designer drugs in Arizona, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah and Virginia;
- expanding problem-solving courts (e.g. drug courts) in Indiana, Missouri and Washington; and
- regulating pain management clinics in Alabama and Tennessee.

Other anti-drug legislation that passed included: Good Samaritan Overdose Prevention Acts and laws that restrict and track pseudoephedrine sales.

IDAHO HIGHLIGHT



In 2013, communities in Idaho saw their state was a target of national pro-marijuana organizations looking to qualify an initiative to legalize marijuana under the guise of medicine. Being aware of the social, economic and legal chaos other states experienced because of such laws, they wanted to create an environment that discouraged any financial investment by pro-drug groups in the state to legalize marijuana. In March, at the request of the Association of Idaho Cities, the state legislature passed a resolution agreeing that the state will never legalize marijuana for any reason.

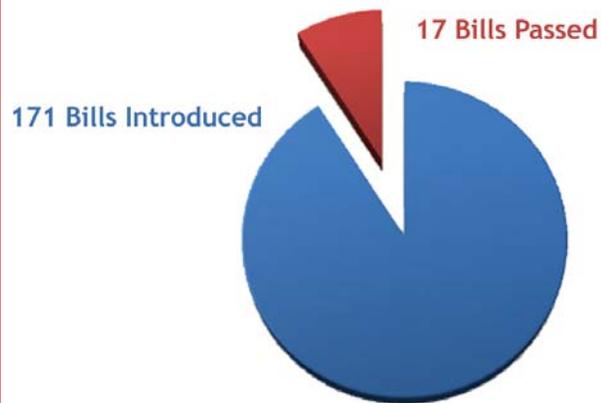
While its bordering states were targets for legalization, the marijuana lobby silently backed out of Idaho with representatives reporting to the media that they have no plans to spend money in the state.

Idaho is a shining example of how state, county and city officials can work in collaboration with drug prevention, law enforcement, health officials and others to prevent unsound, ineffective and sometimes devastating drug policy decisions.



STATE LEGISLATION

2013 Pro-legalization Legislation Introduced in United States



Throughout the year, 171 different pieces of pro-legalization legislation were introduced. This is a huge increase compared to 116 bills filed in 2012, 130 in 2011, and 140 in 2010. We believe the ballot measures passed in 2012 that legalized the possession, distribution, cultivation and retail sale of marijuana, as well as the lack of federal response to these laws, played a role in this significant increase.

Of the 171 pro-legalization efforts, we were able to defeat all but 17. This result was directly tied to the aggressive efforts of S.O.S., including its members and grassroots partners who worked passionately to prevent the escalation of drug use and abuse.

Pro-drug activities that were defeated in 2013 include the following:

- “medical marijuana” bills in Alabama, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas and West Virginia; and
- bills that sought to legalize the cultivation, possession, distribution and retail sale of marijuana in Hawaii, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Pro-drug bills that passed in 2013 include the following:

- “medical” marijuana affirmative defense legislation in Maryland;
- legalization of marijuana under the guise of medicine that allowed for marijuana dispensaries in Illinois and New Hampshire;
- expansion of the definition of physician in already existing “medical” marijuana law to allow for broader terms of who can legally recommend pot, and the addition of qualifying conditions in Maine and Oregon;
- creation of a “medical” marijuana transport system in Oregon; and
- legalization of the production of hemp or other changes in laws regarding hemp in California, Colorado and Kentucky.

SPECIAL FOCUS - FLORIDA SUPREME COURT

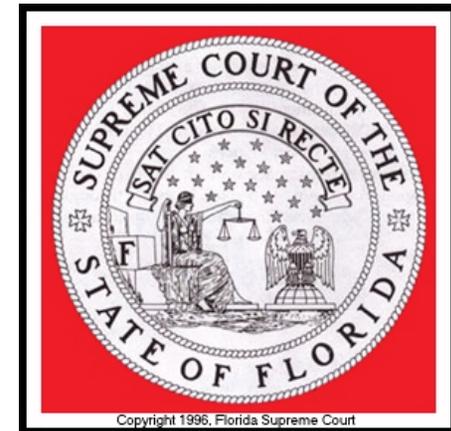


In 2013, Attorney General Pam Bondi requested the state's Supreme Court to issue an opinion on a proposed constitutional amendment to legalize marijuana under the guise of medicine. Attorney General Bondi believed the amendment violated the constitutional rules that govern initiatives and additionally said "the proposal hides the fact that the amendment would make Florida one of the most lenient medical-marijuana states, allowing use for limitless 'other conditions' specified by any physician."

S.O.S. supported Attorney General Bondi's positions and along with the Florida Medical Association, Florida Chamber of Commerce, Florida Sheriffs Association and Florida Police Chiefs Association, filed a brief arguing the proposed amendment violated the single subject requirement and asserted the wording of the amendment was misleading, ambiguous and inaccurate.

In December, S.O.S. attended the Florida Supreme Court hearing with oral arguments from groups that both support and oppose the proposed ballot initiative.

"This has nothing to do with whether one believes marijuana is medicine. The real issue here is that this amendment is extremely flawed and wide open to significant abuses. Let me be clear, it will allow anyone, at any age and with any condition to get pot! It makes a mockery out of our nation's approval process for determining safe and effective medications, as well as endangers our state constitution and our citizens, especially the young ones" -Calvina Fay.



Copyright 1996, Florida Supreme Court

113TH FIRST CONGRESSIONAL SESSION

The 113th Congress commenced on January 3, 2013 and is scheduled to adjourn on January 3, 2015. According to a Gallup Poll released in July 2013, the 113th Congress had the highest disapproval rating of any Congress since 1974 (when data first started being collected): 78% of Americans surveyed said that they disapproved of the job Congress was doing, while only 15% said that they approved.

During the first part of this congressional session, S.O.S. tracked 36 federal measures, most of which will likely be carried over to the second part of the session in 2014. Similar to state legislative trends, the vast majority of congressional drug policy legislation centered on marijuana, prescription drugs and synthetic designer drugs.

Congressional marijuana bills included efforts to decriminalize marijuana at the federal level and allow states to regulate marijuana similar to alcohol, amend the tax code to allow deductions and credits relating to expenditures in connection with marijuana sales, reschedule marijuana's placement in the Controlled Substances Act and to create protections for depository institutions that provide financial services to marijuana-related businesses.

Federal legislation pertaining to prescription drug abuse included:

- efforts to provide increased oversight of prescription opioid treatment and assistance to states in reducing abuse, diversion, and deaths;
- establishing a Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) safety program to prevent fraud and abuse in the dispensing of controlled substances under Part D of the Medicare program, and for other purposes;
- improving enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, and;
- establishing a commission for the purpose of coordinating actions to reduce prescription drug abuse.

To address the ever expanding threat of unregulated synthetic designer drugs, Indiana Congressman Andre Carson introduced legislation that would amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 to increase public awareness about the dangers of synthetic drugs through the national youth antidrug media campaign. Other attempts to address synthetic drugs included expanding criteria in determining whether a controlled substances analogue was meant for human consumption, establishing a commission to review the federal sentencing guidelines and policy statements to ensure adequate penalties for any offense involving the unlawful manufacturing, importing, exporting, or trafficking of controlled substance analogues.

At the close of 2013, all marijuana, prescription drug, and synthetic designer drug related legislation remained in its chamber of origin and will carry over to the second session of the 113th Congress.

S.O.S. ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING

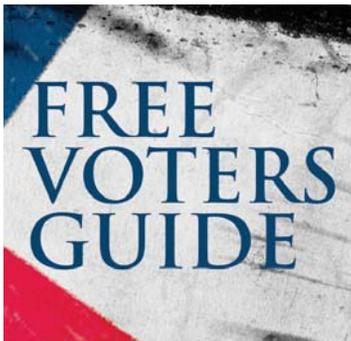
S.O.S. remained the leading voice in all matters related to drug policy by educating our lawmakers and community members and by organizing grassroots advocacy and direct lobbying efforts.



"Advocacy is an important tool to create change in public attitudes and policies that impact people's lives. Drug policy is an issue that impacts everyone including: an employer working to maintain a drug-free workplace, an employee whose safety depends upon working in a drug-free environment, a drug court client who was given the opportunity to participate in treatment instead of jail, a teacher who saw the undeniable signs of drug use in a student, the victim of a drugged driving accident, and a parent or sibling whose family bears the scars of addiction or drug-related death. You don't have to be a 'drug policy expert' to effectively advocate, you just need to be yourself. You can make a difference!" - Amy Ronshausen, Interim Deputy Director, S.O.S.

PRESENTING TO POWER

S.O.S. staff worked with regional partners to assist them in cultivating relationships with lawmakers at the county, state and federal levels. We published voter guides that captured candidate positions on drug policy issues. S.O.S. met with the governor, attorney general, and legislators in our home-base state of Florida. Upon request, we have met with lawmakers in other states and have provided testimony for scheduled hearings at both state and federal levels.



S.O.S. coordinated legislative meetings for like-minded groups and scheduled individuals to testify at congressional, legislative and local government forums and hearings. In 2013, our members testified at local government meetings in various states that resulted in measures being passed to ban marijuana dispensaries, regulate pain management clinics and ban or regulate the sale of synthetic drugs.

SPREADING THE WORD

S.O.S. effectively disseminated anti-drug strategies and research on drug policy issues by presenting to state associations, community and civic groups; partnering with national, state and community organizations to co-host drug summits; and participating in national meetings to develop strategic plans to address a multitude of drug policy issues. We coordinated calls to action on various national or international days of recognition including but not limited to *National Substance Abuse Prevention Month*, *Red Ribbon Month*, *Drug Free Work Week*, and *National Impaired Driving Awareness Month*.



In 2013, S.O.S. partnered with county and statewide coalitions in Florida to co-host a two-day marijuana summit at the University of Tampa. S.O.S. was able to secure national prevention and drug policy experts from around the nation who presented on the impacts of marijuana. The summit was attended by approximately 180 state and community stakeholders. After addressing the impacts of marijuana, attendees participated in developing an action plan to address marijuana use and abuse. Following the success of the summit, a statewide marijuana task force was launched, regional strategic plans were drafted, and a website (www.unmaskingmarijuana.org) was created to house current research and educational materials on marijuana.

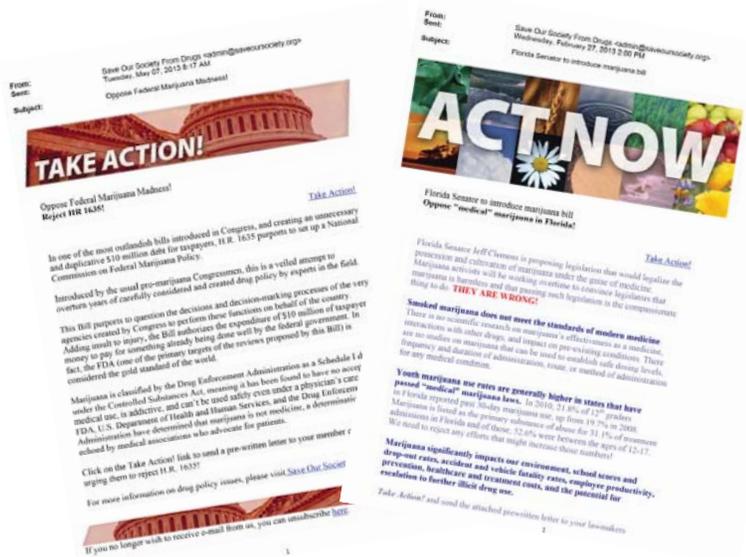


At the national level, S.O.S. participated in the 6th annual Center for Lawful Access and Abuse Deterrence (CLAAD) Consensus Meeting held in Washington, DC. The meeting was well-attended by health care professionals, educators, legislators, law enforcement, insurers, private companies, journalists, academics, and nonprofits. The mission of the meeting was to create a strategy aimed to reduce illicit demand for prescription drugs, create and implement substance use intervention plans and increase access to treatment for individuals with pain and other health conditions as well as addiction. The areas of focus for 2014 will be prevention, professional education, safe and adequate medication supply, access to care and interventions and referrals to treatment.



CLAAD
Center for Lawful Access
and Abuse Deterrence

GRASSROOTS LOBBYING



S.O.S. delivered monthly legislative updates on drug policy related issues to our members and partners. We provided to them findings of new research as well as information on emerging drug trends, and encouraged them to develop educational campaigns that reflected current drug policy issues.

DIRECT LOBBYING



Through our online action center we offered our members opportunities to take action on bills moving through the legislative process at the state and federal levels. Our online Cap Wiz system allowed our subscribers to directly communicate with their elected officials. In 2013, we generated approximately 1,000 communications to state legislative bodies and Congress through this system.

Collaborators
 American Society of Addiction Medicine
 Arizona SADD
 Army National Guard
 Associates in Emergency Medical Education (AIMME)
 Ban Pot Shops Colorado Springs
 California Department of Justice
 Californians for Drug Free Schools
 Californians United Against Drug Abuse
 Center for Dependency, Addiction and Rehabilitation (CeDAR)
 Center for Drug-Free Living
 Center For Lawful Access and Abuse Deterrence (CLAAD)
 Center for Public Safety Innovation
 Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc.
 Christian Drug Education Center
 Citizens Against Legalizing Marijuana-CALM
 Coalition for a Drug Free California
 Community Alliances for Drug Free Youth (CADFY)
 Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
 Community Coalition Alliance
 Courage to Speak Foundation
 D.A.R.E. America
 Drug Free America Foundation, Inc.
 Drug Free Charlotte County
 Drug Free Collier
 Drug Free DeSoto
 Drug Free Duval
 Drug Free Hendry County
 Drug Free Kids: America's Challenge
 Drug Free Schools Coalition
 Drug Free Schools Project
 Drug Prevention Network of the Americas
 Drug Watch International
 Educating Voices
 EM Global
 Family Research Council
 Fayette Companies
 Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association
 Florida Association of DUI Programs
 Florida Coalition Alliance
 Florida Department of Law Enforcement
 Florida National Guard
 Florida Office of the Governor
 Foundation for a Drug Free World

FSU Center for Prevention Research Generation Rx
 Greater Miami Urban League
 Hardee County ASAP!
 Healthy and Drug Free Colorado
 Heritage Foundation
 Hillsborough County Anti-Drug Alliance
 Informed Families
 Institute for Behavioral Health
 Institute on Global Drug Policy
 International Faith Based Coalition
 Kansas Family Partnership
 Keep AZ Drug Free
 Lee County Coalition for a Drug Free Southwest Florida
 Let Us Vote Colorado Springs
 Lions Quest
 LiveFree! Substance Abuse Coalition of Pinellas County
 Main South Alliance for Public Safety
 Manatee County Substance Abuse Coalition
 Maricopa County Attorney's Office
 Miami Coalition
 Michigan Office of the Governor
 Momstell
 Mount Hood Coalition
 Multijurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Training
 NAACP, St. Petersburg Branch
 National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws
 National Association of Drug Court Professionals
 National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA Columbia)
 National Drug Free Workplace Alliance
 National Families in Action
 National Narcotics Officers Association Coalition
 National Student Drug Testing Coalition
 NO on Prop 19
 NOPE Task Force
 Ocean County Narcotics Task Force
 Office of National Drug Control Policy
 Ohio Office of the Governor
 Operation PAR, Inc.
 Oregonians Against Legalization of Marijuana
 Parent Resource Institute for Drug Education
 Partnership Carson City
 Pasco ASAP Anti-Drug Coalition
 Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

Pill Free Pasco
 PRIDE-Omaha, Inc.
 Project GHB
 Protect Our Society
 Rocky Mountain HIDTA
 Safe Community Safe Kids
 Saint Petersburg College
 SAM Smart Approaches to Marijuana
 San Antonio Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
 San Diego Alliance for Drug Free Youth
 San Diego Prevention Coalition
 Say No
 South Dakota Pharmacy Association
 South Dakota law enforcement
 South Miami Coalition Alliance
 St. Petersburg College Center for Public Safety Innovation
 STAND Up Polk
 Standard Register
 StopDrugAbuse.com
 Students Taking Action Not Drugs (STAND)
 Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
 Texas Narcotic Officers Association
 The Benevolent and Protective Order of ELKS
 The Inland Valley Drug Free Community Coalition
 The Partnership at Drugfree.org
 The Stanislaus County Insider
 Troy Community Coalition
 U.S. Chamber of Commerce
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
 Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services
 U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile
 Justice and Delinquency Prevention
 U.S. Department of State
 U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency
 U.S. Small Business Administration
 Washington Drug-Free Business
 West Texas HIDTA



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