

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 25, 2016

The Honorable Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G St, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

We are writing to request that the U.S. Government Accountability Office produce a report on the cost effectiveness of the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program (DCE/SP).

In an October 7 analysis of federal documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, the Washington Post reported that several states that received DCE/SP funds failed to eradicate many marijuana plants, if any. The state of Utah, for instance, received \$73,000 in taxpayer money but did not find a single marijuana plant to eradicate.¹

While the DEA's Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program has been in effect nationwide for three decades, the recent trend in state laws to legalize and decriminalize the production, distribution or consumption of marijuana calls into question the necessity of such a program. Over half the states have now legalized marijuana in some form, yet the DEA continues to funnel millions of tax dollars every year into marijuana eradication. As Congress evaluates how to allocate government funds over the next fiscal year, it is critical that we have an accurate picture of what the DEA's DCE/SP funds are being spent on, where, and how effectively.

We therefore request that GAO report address the following questions:

- What is cost per plant for each state over the past 3-5 years?
- Overall, how much money has been spent on this program in the past 3-5 years?
- How have the states utilized those funds?
- How does the DEA measure the success of the program?
- In how many states did they not eradicate any marijuana plants?
- What is the mean, median, and mode number of plants eradicated from each source?
- What is the total amount of marijuana that has been eradicated/suppressed by this program in the past 3-5 years?

¹ Ingraham, Christopher. "The DEA spent \$73,000 to eradicate marijuana plants in Utah. It didn't find any." Washington Post. 7 Oct. 2016. <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/10/07/the-dea-spent-73000-to-eradicate-marijuana-plants-in-utah-it-didnt-find-any/>>

- What is the total amount of marijuana that has been eradicated/suppressed by this program in the past 3-5 years from states that have laws allowing for the production, distribution, or consumption of medical marijuana?
- How much money has been spent on this program in the past 3-5 years that have laws allowing for the production, distribution, or consumption of medical marijuana?
- What types and levels of coordination occur between DEA, USDA, and USFS under this program?

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



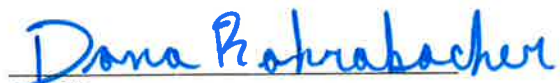
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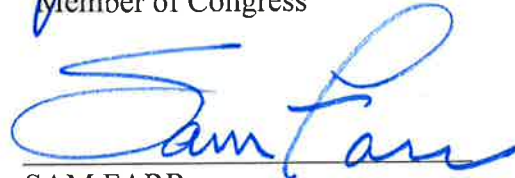
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