

MEDIA ADVISORY -- For event on Tuesday, May 29

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Colorado Veterans and Advocates to File Petition to Add Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to list of Medical Marijuana Conditions

Vets from three branches of Armed forces to speak at press event at State Health Department;
Colorado's lead medical marijuana advocacy organization to submit petition to amend state medical marijuana law

SOUTH DENVER, CO -- On Tuesday, May 29, at the Colorado Health Department Office, Sensible Colorado, the state's leading medical marijuana advocacy non-profit, will join with veterans of the U.S. Armed Services in filing a petition to add Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to the list of conditions for which doctors can recommend medical marijuana under Colorado law.

According to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, nearly 20% of returning soldiers from Afghanistan and Iraq suffer from PTSD. PTSD causes insomnia, nightmares, suicidal thoughts, and depression and many sufferers report using medical marijuana to cope. Under current Colorado law, those suffering from PTSD face criminal penalties for using medical marijuana to alleviate their symptoms.

Sensible Colorado is filing this petition on behalf of Joseph Hatcher, a combat veteran of the Iraq war, who suffers from PTSD related to his service. Mr Hatcher will be a featured speaker along with retired members of the U.S. Air Force and Navy.

"Eighteen veterans commit suicide everyday, according to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, and if medical marijuana can help just one of these soldiers, we have a duty to push for legal access to this medicine now," said Brian Vicente, Executive Director of Sensible Colorado. "Those who have served our country and been injured in the line of duty deserve access to any medicine they find effective. Its time for the Health Department to do the compassionate thing, and stop criminalizing these brave men and women. The time to amend our state law to reflect emerging science about the role of marijuana in treating PTSD is now."

PTSD is the second most cited condition by medical marijuana patients in New Mexico and [Arizona is considering a similar petition to add PTSD under its medical marijuana law this week.](#)

A rally will accompany the official submission of the PTSD petition on May 29 at noon at the Colorado Health Department office. See more details below.

WHO: Colorado veterans and supporters. Speakers to include:

Joseph Hatcher, Army Veteran and form Calvary Scout, retired
Wanda James, US Navy Lt. 86-91, retired
Robert Wiley, Major USAF, retired
Brian Vicente, Sensible Colorado

WHAT: Press conference to discuss petition and ****photo opportunity as veterans file petition.****

WHEN: Tuesday, May 29 at noon

WHERE: Colorado Health Department Office, 4300 Cherry Creek South Drive, Denver, CO
80246

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Sensible Colorado is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting a more sensible, evidence-based approach to drugs and drug policy in Colorado. For more information visit <http://www.SensibleColorado.org>.