

DEA Administrator Karen P. Tandy
Drug Enforcement Administration
Mailstop: AXS
2401 Jefferson Davis Highway
Alexandria, VA 22301

Dear Administrator Tandy,

We're writing to urge you to approve the application by Professor Lyle Craker of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst for a DEA Schedule I license as a bulk manufacturer of marijuana. Prof. Craker's facility will be privately funded and will produce marijuana exclusively for use by federally approved researchers.

On February 12, DEA Administrative Law Judge Mary Ellen Bittner concluded that it would be in the public interest for DEA to approve Professor Craker's application. At present, the National Institute on Drug Abuse has a monopoly on the production of marijuana for legitimate medical and research in the United States. Judge Bittner found this monopoly unjustified, since federal law clearly requires adequate competition in the manufacture of Schedule I and II substances. (See 21 U.S.C. § 823(a)(1); see also 21 C.F.R. § 1301.33(b).)

University of Massachusetts-Amherst is one of the nation's distinguished research universities, and is highly qualified to manufacture marijuana for legitimate medical and research purposes with effective controls against diversion. Granting a license to Prof. Craker will allow privately-funded FDA-approved research to evaluate the medical utility of marijuana for patients undergoing chemotherapy or suffering from AIDS, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, or other diseases.

We urge you to accept Judge Bittner's recommendation and approve Prof. Craker's application for registration as a bulk manufacturer, so that legitimate and privately funded scientific research can be conducted. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

With respect and appreciation,

Sincerely,

Senator Edward M. Kennedy

Senator John F. Kerry