



PAUL COHEN'S Marijuana Hub

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MORE ON THE DEA HARDLINE

Weed Week summarized the DEA position well: "The DEA confirmed that [marijuana extracts containing CBD](#) are illegal. The agency explained that the notice, published in the Federal Register, does not change its enforcement priorities. Cannabis attorney Bob Hoban responded, "The sky is not falling; however, this is a very concerning move by the DEA...What it purports to do is give the DEA control of all cannabinoids as a controlled substance."

More than 30% of cannabis businesses are [very concerned](#) about Trump's presidency, according to a Marijuana Business Daily Poll. In particular, they're worried about the U.S. attorney general nomination of prohibitionist Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions (R). In Slate, I wrote that the industry is [cowardly, hypocritical and stupid](#) for not fighting the Sessions nomination. Legalization activist and journalist Tom Angell tweeted that I'm "[WAY off base](#)" and then got into an interesting Twitter exchange with [Bill Piper](#) of Drug Policy Alliance, which is opposing the nomination.

The U.S. Senate extended the Rohrbacher-Farr amendment, [which prohibits the federal government from interrupting state MED programs](#), until April 28. Rep. Dana Rohrbacher (R- Calif.) said he's confident that it will be extended again. He also wants it to be expanded to include state REC programs. Rohrbacher and Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) are forming a "[cannabis caucus](#)" in Congress. Congress also announced that it will perform a [comprehensive review](#) of the war on drugs in search of alternative policies in the Caribbean and Latin America. U.S. teenagers [find it harder to buy weed](#) than they have for 24 years, according to an annual survey by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). The same study found that [teen drug use is declining nationally](#)."

It is clear to me that the DEA is dead set against the cannabis industry. Their action has been well planned and thought out. The DEA knows and understands marijuana, has powerful attorneys, knows the chemistry of the plant, and understands their legal position that will certainly be tested by the industry. Jeff Sessions, the new DEA, is a far right conservative espousing family values, a bedrock of the Republican Party. It is difficult for me to believe that teen agers in the USA are having difficulty in obtaining drugs. If cannabis is a drug, they have no problem accessing the plant.