



Pennsylvania Department of the

**AUDITOR GENERAL**

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## News for Immediate Release

Jan. 4, 2018

### **Auditor General DePasquale Speaks Out Against Attorney General Sessions' Attack on Legalized Marijuana**

*Calls decision outdated, fueled by regressive political ideology*

**HARRISBURG** – Auditor General Eugene DePasquale today issued the following statement regarding the Trump administration's announcement reversing long-standing policy allowing states to legalize marijuana without repercussions from the federal government:

"As a public servant and an outspoken supporter of regulating and taxing marijuana, I am outraged by this move by the Trump Administration. Jeff Sessions is spitting in the faces of the 64 percent of Americans who openly support marijuana legalization.

"Our attorney general is stuck in the Dark Ages. He is using finite federal resources to fight a war against drugs that was lost decades ago. He showed just how clueless he really is by comparing marijuana to heroin. The days of calling pot a 'gateway drug' are long past, and it appears Jeff Sessions wants to drag the country back into the past as well.

"We are all entitled to our own opinion, but not to our own facts. Not only has the medical community concluded marijuana is not a 'gateway drug,' but it has also been shown to help reduce opioid addiction.

"This decision is outdated. It's fueled by regressive political ideology. It's against the will of the American people. And we must not stand for it."

This week, California became the eighth state to legalize marijuana for recreational use. Auditor General DePasquale is the [only statewide-elected official in Pennsylvania calling for regulating and taxing marijuana here.](#)

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