

# WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT LEAP

**Walter Cronkite**, host, CBS Evening News (1962-1981):

“Anyone concerned about the failure of our \$69 billion-a-year War on Drugs should watch [LEAP’s DVD]. You will meet front line, ranking police officers who give us a devastating report on why it cannot work. It is a must-see for any journalist or public official dealing with this issue.”

**Radley Balko**, columnist, FoxNews.com:

“Proponents of drug prohibition tend to dismiss reform groups like NORML or the Drug Policy Alliance as fringe ideologues...But when decorated police officers, former police chiefs, and ex-judges and prosecutors speak up, audiences can't help but take notice. These aren't stoners. They're former public servants, and many risked their lives for a cause they now say is mistaken. That's powerful stuff. When a guy tells you he regrets what he's done for most of his career -- and what he could well have died for -- his words take on a unique credibility and urgency.”

**Ryan Grim**, senior political reporter, Huffington Post:

"Because the cops, judges and prosecutors at LEAP have seen with their own eyes what happens on the front lines of the war on drugs, having them on hand as sources has made my reporting much richer and adds context to my stories that no other organization can provide.”

**Rep. Beto O’Rourke**, City Councilman, El Paso, Texas:

"I was surprised by an organization I didn’t know about until we offered that [legalization] resolution, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition. These are retired law enforcement people—from the Border Patrol, police, sheriffs—who have waged the war in real life and believe it absolutely cannot be won. These are guys who have put their lives on the line and have come back from that experience and said, ‘This doesn’t work,’ and they are so eloquent and articulate on this subject.”

**Froma Harrop**, syndicated columnist:

“Prohibition — and the violence, corruption and health hazards that followed — lives on in its modern version, the so-called War on Drugs. Former law-enforcement officers gathered [in Washington, D.C.] to draw the parallels. Their group, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), has called for nothing less than the legalization of drugs. And before you say, 'We can’t do that,' hear the officers out. They have an answer for every objection...As people formerly on the front lines of the drug war, and in law enforcement, its members offer the most persuasive and understandable arguments of any of the legalization groups. They're not hippies.”

**Jacob Sullum**, senior editor, Reason Magazine:

“LEAP offers an eye-opening critical perspective on drug prohibition, informed by firsthand experience with trying to enforce it. The group's members will say on the record what many law enforcement officials privately admit: The war on drugs is a colossal failure that causes unconscionable collateral damage.”

**Leonard Pitts Jr.**, syndicated columnist:

“I'd suggest you contact LEAP and ask them to send a speaker...Listening to the group's founder for half an hour certainly reoriented my view.”

**Capitol Weekly**, The Newspaper of California Government and Politics:

“Law enforcement groups have traditionally provided the main opposition efforts to reduce or eliminate penalties on marijuana. However, the growing visibility of groups like Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), as well as former judges and police officers who favor legalization, may have changed this dynamic.”

**Misha Glenny**, journalist and author:

“In the United States, the most effective group demanding change is Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, or LEAP, which is made up of current and former police officers, including erstwhile operatives of the Drug Enforcement Agency.”

**Kathleen Parker**, syndicated columnist:

“In our peculiar obsession to track down the Willie Nelsons, Rush Limbaughs, and now Michael Phelps of society -- nonviolent, victimless imbibers of drugs -- we've actually made society less safe. That's the conclusion of 10,000 cops, prosecutors, judges and others who make up the membership of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition.”

**Christian Science Monitor**:

“The emergence of frontline officers speaking out against the war on drugs is helping to kindle a debate about legalization of drugs across the US...It is even driving a Congressional bill written by Sen. Jim Webb (D) of Virginia to establish a new Blue Ribbon justice system panel that would take a serious look at drug legalization. The US could gain \$77 billion in revenue a year by legalizing - and taxing - marijuana, cocaine and heroin, says LEAP.”