



Marijuana Policy Project  
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## **Idaho State Rep. Luke Malek Named One of Country's 'Worst State Legislators of 2013' by Nation's Largest Marijuana Policy Organization**

*Marijuana Policy Project ranks Malek second-worst legislator based on his support for anti-marijuana resolution and claim that medical marijuana is a 'farcical predatory scheme'*

**\*\* List countdown video at <http://youtu.be/cb1iR7peoXE> – Video image attached \*\***

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Idaho State Rep. Luke Malek (R-Couer d'Alene) is ranked second in a list of the country's "Worst State Legislators of 2013" released Friday by the nation's largest marijuana policy organization, the Marijuana Policy Project (MPP).

**The list of "Worst Legislators" is below, along with a brief explanation of why each is included. A video countdown of the list is available at <http://youtu.be/cb1iR7peoXE>**

The seven state representatives and one senator were selected based on their legislative efforts to maintain or expand marijuana prohibition policies, as well as

statements they made, during the 2013 legislative sessions. The list includes Rep. Malek because he helped pass a resolution opposing the legalization of marijuana "for any purpose" because he thinks medical marijuana is a "farcical predatory scheme."

"Unfortunately, there are still many elected officials in this country who cannot let go of their antiquated beliefs about marijuana," said MPP director of communications Mason Tvert. "These are just the most outrageous examples."

Nearly 75% of Idahoans support allowing "terminally and seriously ill patients to use and purchase marijuana for medical purposes," according to the 2011 Boise State University Public Policy Survey. A Pew Research Center poll conducted in March found three out of four Americans believe marijuana has legitimate medical benefits.

"Most people are seeing through the reefer madness," Tvert said. "Despite some legislators' efforts to hold back progress, most Americans now agree that marijuana prohibition has failed and that it is time to adopt a more sensible, evidence-based policy."

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*The Marijuana Policy Project, the nation's largest marijuana policy organization, has been responsible for changing most state-level marijuana laws since 2000. For more information, visit <http://www.marijuanapolicy.org>.*

**The Marijuana Policy Project's Worst Legislators of 2013**

**1. Colorado Sen. John Morse (D)** – Tried to sneak a bill through in the final hours of the session that could have resulted in the repeal of a voter-approved initiative to regulate marijuana like alcohol. *Source: Associated Press, 5/6/13*

**2. Idaho Rep. Luke Malek (R)** – Helped pass a resolution opposing the legalization of marijuana "for any purpose" because he thinks medical marijuana is a "farcical predatory scheme." *Source: Associated Press, 3/27/13*

**3. Arizona Rep. John Kavanagh (R)** – Proposed repealing a voter-approved medical marijuana law, falsely claiming that "no medical authority" would agree that marijuana has legitimate medical benefits. *Source: Arizona Daily Sun, 1/25/13*

**4. North Carolina Rep. Paul "Skip" Stam (R)** – Killed a medical marijuana bill because he felt "harassed" by the large volume of calls and emails he and his colleagues were receiving about it. *Source: WRAL-TV, 2/20/13*

**5. Florida Rep. Darryl Rouson (D)** – Sponsored a successful bill to ban the sale of pipes and bongs, which he referred to as "utensils of death." *Source: Broward-Palm Beach New Times, 3/7/13*

**6. Montana Rep. David Howard (R)** – Helped defeat bills that would have improved access to medical marijuana, calling it "the most dangerous drug there is" and a "poison" that "makes [users] delusional." *Source: Helena Independent Record, 2/15/13*

**7. Iowa Rep. Clel Baudler (R)** – Helped kill a medical marijuana bill, saying it would be the "top one or two or three stupidest bills" to pass the