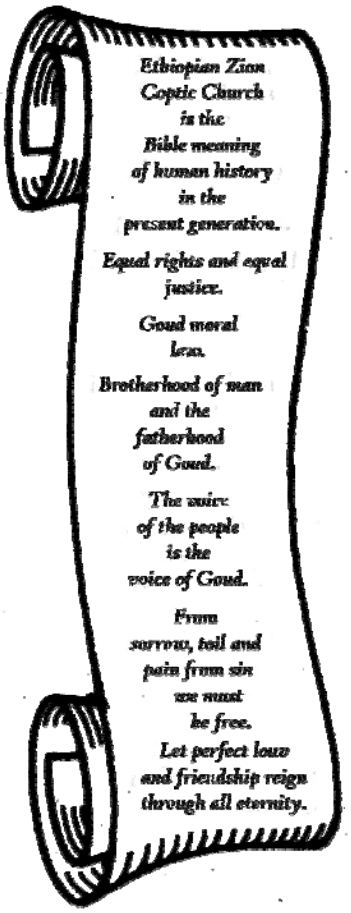
Ethiopian Zion Coptic Church



July 4, 2008

Tom Harkin
United States Senator
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1501

Dear Senator Harkin:

Attached is the response I received from the DEA on July 3, 2008 to the Petition I filed on May 15, 2008.

In light of the ruling in Gonzales v. Oregon, 546 U.S. 243 (2006), that states, and not the federal government, determine accepted medical use under the federal Controlled Substances Act (CSA), the DEA should have removed marijuana from schedule I in 1996 when California enacted the first state medical marijuana law. DEA's failure to obey federal law is causing irreparable harm as the DEA continues to use its enforcement powers to prevent medical use of marijuana in states such as California and New Mexico where those states have determined that marijuana is safe, effective, and has accepted medical use in treatment. See the attached legal memorandum which was filed with my petition.

I should not have to wait for a ruling from the DEA on my Petition for administrative rule making. Your office should take immediate action to prevent further DEA abuses of the states' authority under the CSA (21 U.S.C. § 903).

Sincerely,

Reverend Carl Olsen
Ethiopian Zion Coptic Church
130 E Aurora Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50313-3654
515-288-5798, carl-olsen@mchsi.com