

# **Common Sense for Drug Policy**

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## **New National Drug Strategy Urged Time For Strategy That Works**

**White House to Release New National Drug Control Strategy  
Tuesday, February 12, 2002**

### **Coalition Issues Eight Step Alternative Plan**

Washington, DC – On the eve of the release of the Bush Administration’s National Drug Control Strategy a coalition of organizations has urged a new approach to drug control. The groups emphasize the need to invest in programs that have been proven effective and to discard the expensive and ineffective law enforcement dominated approach that has failed. A coalition of organizations released an alternative strategy: “Eight Steps to Effectively Controlling Drug Abuse and the Drug Market.” (See enclosed, more details available at [www.cspd.org](http://www.cspd.org).)

"With the US in recession, fighting a war against terror, and with a budget again in deficit, we can no longer afford to pour \$20 billion annually into a discredited drug strategy that has made our country less healthy and less safe," urged Kevin B Zeese, President of Common Sense for Drug Policy. "Experience and research in the USA and around the world shows that there are effective alternatives. The Eight point plan will cost substantially less and be much more effective. This isn't just about saving money, this is about protecting kids, saving families and preserving our long cherished American values."

The Eight point strategy issued by the National Coalition for Effective Drug Policies, a coalition of organizations working for drug policies that reduce drug-related problems, calls for:

1. Shifting Resources Into Programs That Have Been Proven Effective – Prevention, Treatment, Education and Away From the Expensive Law Enforcement Paradigm That Has Proven Ineffective
2. Making Treatment Available on Request Like Any Other Health Service
3. Preventing Drug Abuse By Investing in Youth and Providing Them with Accurate Information
4. Focusing Law Enforcement Resources on the Most Dangerous and Violent Criminals
5. Demilitarizing International Drug Control Efforts and Focusing on Economic Development
6. Restoring Justice to the US Justice System By Facing Racial Discrimination That Exists Throughout The System and Restoring Sentencing Authority to Federal Judges
7. Respecting State’s Rights By Aiding New Approaches Supported in Voter Initiatives and State Legislative Actions
8. Making Prevention of HIV and Other Blood Borne Diseases a Top Priority

Enclosed is “Eight Steps to Effectively Controlling Drug Abuse and the Drug Market,” and a list of contacts. More details are available by contacting Common Sense or visiting <http://www.cspd.org>.

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