

**"The illegal drug trade is the financial engine that fuels many terrorist organizations around the world, including Osama bin Laden."**

*House Speaker Dennis Hastert<sup>1</sup>*



- The United Nations reports an illegal drug trade worth \$400 Billion a year<sup>2</sup> -- \$100 Billion more than our Department of Defense budget.
- Drug trade is big business: Illegal Drugs are 8% of all international trade while Textiles are 7.5% and Motor Vehicles are 5.3%.<sup>3</sup>

**We do not purport a direct link with the tragedies of 9/11. But as part of the battle to defeat terrorism and strengthen our society, ask yourself:**

- Is the funding of terrorism another unintended consequence of drug prohibition?
- Could a regulated and controlled model for soft drugs similar to our approach with alcohol and for hard drugs similar to prescription drugs stop the flow of illegal drug profits?
- In so many ways, does the War on Drugs cause far more harm than good, both here and abroad?

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**Sources:**

1: Associated Press, "Hastert Forms Task Force on Drugs," September 21, 2001.

2: United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, "Economic and Social Consequences of Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking" (New York, NY: UN Drug Control Program, 1998), p. 3.

3: United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, "Economic and Social Consequences of Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking" (New York, NY: UN Drug Control Program, 1998), p. 3.