The NFL is in a bit of a tight spot. Well I suppose the tightness of the spot I’m about to describe doesn’t really warrant my beginning with that in this instance overpowered cliche, since its body of athletes continues to push the boundaries of (human?) depravity, at least for a group of people who are, either directly, in the form of personal admiration and imitation, or indirectly, in the form of societal favoritism and social hegemony, role models for half the country’s youth, especially high schoolers, the most suggestible of such, but I use it nonetheless, as a reminder, if anything, of the fact that the NFL, despite its billion dollar revenue increase, is facing troubled times, the decline of the popularity of the sport of football notwithstanding. The aforementioned body contains as a majority, individuals who recreationally use marijuana, the definition of recreationally being stretched to varying degrees. The active compound, who's chemical name has become a cliche in-and-of-itself, which is a moving testimony to the ubiquitous nature of the drug and its thorough permeation into modern culture, is quite unequivocally not performance-enhancing, and, as history has shown and continues to show, is a daily (depending on the user, more or less) commodity that few people and fewer athletes and even fewer football players are willing to part with. Yet it remains illegal under federal law. The NFL can therefore not be seen condoning such illegal behavior. In practice, this means that when R. Goodell gets up on the podium and gets asked if the League regularly screens for marijuana, he needs to say yes. On the other hand, he can’t have half the players in said League suspended at any given time for lighting up here and there. The current resolution is to test once a year before training camp, on a set date, to let the players detox in time. This allows athletes the freedom to burn on 362 days, give or take. But there is a growing force, originating both from within the body of players, who one hand lead lifestyles given to an above average consumption of the drug while on the other hand are claiming, motivated either by truth or by a need for logical approval of a part of their recreational lives which is looked down upon by the law as well as hegemonic white society by proxy, whose historical tension with said body of athletes need not be expanded upon, or else by principle, that the ban on marijuana is illogical, that there is growing scientific evidence, whose growth is heavily stemmed by said ban, that the drug has significant medical benefits to the what many perceive as more dangerous and more addictive legal alternatives to medical marijuana, as well as the body of viewers, that this ban on marijuana, despite its very soft flavor, is, or at least should, coming to the end of its life. Now the tightness of the spot originates from the absence of a parallel movement of equal magnitude in the federal legislature, to which the NFL is, or at least needs to appear to be, subordinate. A possible alternative might be to reconsider, or better yet, reconstruct the entire drug screening policy, starting at the philosophical level by changing the in some ways unconstitutional assumption which is logically necessary to support the current method, which is that the athletes are guilty of drug abuse until proven innocent. If this assumption were reversed, the screening process might look like this: players are not drug tested unless they exhibit behavior which puts their probability of drug use above some yet to be determined threshold, upon which they are investigated, a part of which might contain the drug test. Of course, testing for performance enhancing drugs should continue as is, since the body of athletes has clear motive for such abuse, not to mention the fact that the abuse of such drugs is, according to an overwhelming majority of experts, detrimental to the health of the player. There will be those who try to make the argument that marijuana could also be seen as a performance enhancing drug, especially if the alluded to stymied scientific evidence of the health benefits of medical marijuana prove to be true, for then the use of marijuana would put one at an advantage when recovering from possible injuries, etc, but the point of fact would still lie in the observation that unlike the conventional performance enhancing drugs, medical marijuana would not, as proven by the hypothesized to be true studies which have been until now supporting the counterargument, be detrimental to the long term health of the individual player, which I should mention is also an every growing concern of the NFL.