

Each day I'm amazed at the transformation taking place in our government. We have moved from a president bent on fighting a 'holy crusade', to a president that recently allowed secular organizations a seat at the forum on faith at the White House; Jefferson's Wall of Separation is slowing being rebuilt.

Former Seattle police Chief Gil Kerlokowski is another brick on that wall and parents across the spectrum should feel a sense of relief. Kerlokowski has spent the last decade trying to rid the city of drugs. He was recently asked about the "War on Drugs" phrase, to which he replied, "Regardless of how you try to explain to people it's a 'war on drugs' or a 'war on a product,' people see a war as a war on them. We're not at war with people in this country." The past decade in the great northwest, where the marijuana smuggling from Canada is a major source of agitation for Seattle Police, Kerlokowski must have realized that he was fighting a losing battle: how do you rid an entire city's desire for illicit drugs?

The truth is that you can't, and instead of having an outdated approach to dealing with drugs, Americans must take a fresh look at way to help young ones understand the dangers of drugs, without punishing competent adults for indulgences. Kerlokowski did not support Washington's decriminalization of marijuana in Seattle, which ultimately ended up saving the state millions. But Kerlokowski, unlike the former enforcement official, John Walters, understands that punishing hardworking, productive members of society for smoking weed in the privacy of their own home comes seconding stopping major crime in the area. Kerlokowski chose to enforce the policy, a decision vindicated by the strong results that followed.

[youtube=http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sQkc2gPbbA&hl=en&fs=1&color1=0x234900&color2=0x4e9e00]

This is exactly the kind of mindset that a Drug Czar should have. Yes, Marijuana is illegal. But did we not learn our lesson with the prohibition of alcohol in the 20's?

Not only that, the money we would get from taxing and regulating marijuana flies in the face of all the false predictions of societal decay (not amply supported by evidence). Over 500 economists signed an open letter to the president urging him to consider the substantial benefits of legalizing marijuana. Gil Kerlokowski understands the balance that is needed in our government at this critical time; I trust him to bring a measured, yet focused approach to enforcement in the 21st century.

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You can find the letter from 500 top economists [here](#).