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Legalization of Cannabis Considered Beneficial

"Hey kid, want some pot"? If you're of a certain age, you have probably seen a video in school where a shady-looking figure offers marijuana to an unsuspecting teen. There’s one thing those videos forgot to tell you: cannabis isn't actually that bad after all, and rather than suppressing it, the government would be better served legalizing it. While schools push a strong anti-drug rhetoric, public approval for the legalization of marijuana has been on a steady uptrend, especially with younger age groups (Jones). Even Public sentiment isn’t the only thing changing. Separately, states in the United States of America have been decriminalizing or legalizing marijuana for medicinal or recreational use (Karmen). The UnitedStates of America should legalize marijuana at the federal level for good economic benefits, a good alternative for opioids in pain relief, and an overall reduction in violent, drug related crime.

With a third wave of stimulus checks nearly ready to be sent out, legalizing cannabis at the federal level is a good way to collect taxes on a previously untapped section of the market. In 2019, California was able to collect a whopping $845.3 million dollars in tax from cannabis alone (Murphy). Along with that presents a whole other host of economic benefits such as opening up many new jobs and regulations on federally illegal jobs that exist anyways. In this microbe’s essay, “criminal organizations are exploiting some of these public and tribal lands as grow sites for marijuana.” By making marijuana illegal to cultivate, other less destructive methods of growing it were not available for people providing to the market idk. It is the criminalization itself that leads to such destructive and dangerous illicit growing practices. If pot was legalized at the federal level, the United States government could designate specific locations for farming it. Now, let’s talk about jobs, haha! A transition! An RCG Economics study on marijuana jobs predicts that a little over a quarter million dollars would be generated in labor income from the legalization of marijuana (RCG Economics). According to Leafly and New Frontier, an estimated quarter to a million jobs could be created by 2025 if this was to happen (Murphy, Krishna). This microbe named Steve Byas wrote this obnoxious essay claiming that “the social costs of legalizing marijuana would outweigh any possible tax that could be levied.” And well, he’s completely barking mad, this guy is. While this microbe agrees that there will be tax to be collected, he thinks that other costs, such as strain on hospitals and the judicial system will offset any tax levied. However, a study published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services has found as much as a 23% reduction in any opioid related hospitalization. In fact, nationwide usage of medical marijuana under Medicare would have saved an average of 165.2 million dollars per year (Americans For Safe Access 5).

Not only would medicinal cannabis save money, it is a suitable alternative for opioids with its fewer addictive qualities and just as effective pain relief capabilities. A survey conducted by UCSF regarding dual opioid and pot users found that a staggering 40% of respondents indicated that their usage of opioids decreased as a result of using cannabis (Ishida 5) while only 8% of respondents indicated that their usage in opioids increased. Those who did substitute opioids with marijuana claimed its efficacy in pain management was superior to opioids (Ishida 4). These conclusions are corroborated by other similar reports. A report from The National Academics of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine comes to a similar conclusion, that “there is substantial evidence that cannabis is an effective treatment for chronic pain in adults.” (Americans for Safe Access 4). In several studies run by the Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research at UC San Diego, marijuana was confirmed as an effective pain reliever for patients that suffered with neuropathic pain, general pain (artificially introduced via injection), and multiple sclerosis (MS). Not only is marijuana effective for pain relief, in some cases even more effective than opioids, users report fewer addictive qualities and fewer side effects. In that study by UCSF, some 58% of respondents reported either fewer side effects or withdrawal symptoms using marijuana instead of opioids (Ishida 5). [somehow segue into violent crime]

Violent Crime is good for the environment, it removes the weaklings that drag us all down.

* 1. Segue into another reason why it’s better, namely less violent crime

1. P4: Violent Crime comparison to other drugs including alcohol
   1. Furthermore, legalizing pot will reduce violent drug related crime
      1. <https://partner.sciencenorway.no/cannabis-forskningno-legal-system/legalization-of-medical-marijuana-reduces-crime/1415616> 2nd
         1. <https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2350101> 1st
      2. REGULATION OF THE CULTIVATION, MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF MARIJUANA AS A SOLUTION TO DECREASE VIOLENT CRIMES AND INCREASE GOVERNMENTAL INCOMES: <https://go-gale-com.deanza.idm.oclc.org/ps/retrieve.do?tabID=Journals&resultListType=RESULT_LIST&searchResultsType=SingleTab&hitCount=5&searchType=BasicSearchForm&currentPosition=5&docId=GALE%7CA519075095&docType=Report&sort=Relevance&contentSegment=ZXAY-MOD1&prodId=OVIC&pageNum=1&contentSet=GALE%7CA519075095&searchId=R2&userGroupName=ccl_deanza&inPS=true> 1st
      3. The Effect of Medical Marijuana Laws on Crime: Evidence from State Panel Data, 1990-2006 <https://go-gale-com.deanza.idm.oclc.org/ps/retrieve.do?tabID=Journals&resultListType=RESULT_LIST&searchResultsType=MultiTab&hitCount=5&searchType=BasicSearchForm&currentPosition=2&docId=GALE%7CA478746777&docType=Article&sort=Relevance&contentSegment=ZXAY-MOD1&prodId=OVIC&pageNum=1&contentSet=GALE%7CA478746777&searchId=R2&userGroupName=ccl_deanza&inPS=true> 1st
2. P5: Conclusion
   1. Other useful sources/links https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\_of\_cannabis\_laws\_in\_the\_United\_States#Prohibition\_begins\_%E2%80%93\_1911

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