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Illegality of Cannabis Considered Harmful

"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 [cite source gallup somehow]. 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. 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. [cite P2.d.a] 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. An RCG Study on marijuana jobs predicts that a little over a quarter million dollars would be generated in labor income from the legalization of marijuana. A little under a quarter million jobs would be created in this process too according to Leafty.

Outline of the entire thing

1. Intro
   1. Sentiment on legalization
      1. <https://ballotpedia.org/History_of_marijuana_on_the_ballot>
         1. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/267698/support-legal-marijuana-steady-past-year.aspx>
      2. <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2013/04/04/majority-now-supports-legalizing-marijuana/>
   2. Recently, states across the United States have been legalizing cannabis.
      1. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/state-medical-marijuana-laws.aspx> 1st or 2nd
2. P2: Economic benefits aka regulation
   1. Taxable now
      1. Show figures of what income changes
   2. More jobs
   3. We can now regulate the jobs that are present. Aka better working conditions for pot field workers.
   4. Sources:
      1. Source: <https://theeconreview.com/2020/12/18/high-economy-impacts-of-marijuana-legalization-on-the-us-economy/> 3rd
      2. <https://www.investopedia.com/articles/insights/110916/economic-benefits-legalizing-weed.asp> 2nd
      3. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/kevinmurphy/2019/05/20/cannabis-is-becoming-a-huge-job-creator/?sh=1df9486c49bf> 2nd
      4. Leafy is first
3. P3: Cannabis as an alternative to opioids
   1. <https://www.safeaccessnow.org/opioidblueprint>
   2. Pain relief
   3. Segue into another reason why it’s better, namely less violent crime
4. 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
5. 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