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Essay Outline

Causes and Effects of Legalizing Marijuana

Introduction: Did you know that over 61% of Americans endorsed the legalization of marijuana in the United States? According to research conducted by AP-NORC Center for public affairs in March 2016, the majority of Americans supported legalization of marijuana. For that reason, marijuana has become a controversial drug in the past few decades because it is still illegal according to federal laws. This paper aims to discuss the causes and effects of legalizing marijuana in the United States.

Thesis Statement: Unless the risks of consuming marijuana outweigh its benefits, the Congress should legalize marijuana in the United States, on the basis of the fact that the majority of Americans support it, marijuana has medicinal value, and marijuana is a potential source of revenue and jobs.

Causes of Legalizing Marijuana

- I. The majority of Americans advocate for the legalization of marijuana. Hence, the will of the majority should be respected.

- Barbare argues that according to opinions collected by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 55 percent of Americans supported the idea of legalizing marijuana, while 40 percent opposed it (276).
- Additionally, Barbare states that 63 percent of Democrats and 61 percent of Independents supported legalization of marijuana (276). However, 40 percent of Republicans opposed legalization of marijuana (Barbare 276).
- However, legalization of marijuana would boost its adoption to a massive number of adolescents. Beresin, Eugene, and Cheryl argue that most adolescents would increase their rate of consuming marijuana if the government legalizes it. According to Beresin, Eugene, and Cheryl, the majority of adolescents would go to the extent of posting photos in the media to demonstrate how they use it (66).

II. Marijuana should be legalized because no reported deaths are attributed to marijuana.

- Gerber argues that there are no reported deaths that are attributed to the consumption of marijuana (1). In fact, Gerber states that reported deaths from marijuana are zero while reported deaths from alcohol and tobacco average 50000 and 400000 respectively, per annum.
- However, more people would suffer from memory loss and impaired concentration. Mark, Vernon and Mark quote marijuana as one of the probable causes of memory loss and impaired concentration (129). Mark, Vernon and Mark argue that most stimulants including marijuana are consumed due to their effect on the human brain. Therefore, prolonged consumption of marijuana has the potential to bring memory loss and impaired concentration.

III. Marijuana should be legalized on the basis of its medicinal value.

- Mathre states that marijuana provides therapeutic value in glaucoma, AIDS, cancer, and convulsive diseases because it alleviates chronic pain (51).
- In 1991, approximately 80 percent of voters supported the inclusion of marijuana in the lists of approved medicines at a major AIDS epicenter in San Francisco (Mathre 51).
- Hence, people suffering from chronic diseases such as cancer would be able to alleviate pain and lead a comfortable life thereafter.

IV. Marijuana is a potential source of revenue and jobs.

- Barbare argues that marijuana can generate revenues between \$40 and \$100 billion annually if it were legalized and taxed just like alcohol and tobacco (276).
- As a result, the federal government would use the revenue to provide citizens with subsidized services such as cheap health services and education amongst other.

Works Cited

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