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Causes and Effects of Legalizing Marijuana

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. Certainly, there are people who are supporting legalization of marijuana and another group opposing legalization of marijuana. In my opinion, I believe that the federal government should legalize marijuana because its benefits outweigh the risks of using it. 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 a medicinal value, and marijuana is a potential source of revenue and jobs.

Firstly, the government should legalize marijuana to demonstrate its respect for the will of the majority of Americans. Barbare argues that according to the 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). Only 40 percent of Republicans opposed legalization of marijuana (Barbare 276). Therefore, it is evident that the majority of Americans support the legalization of marijuana. For that reason, I believe that the

majority of Americans would vote for legalization of marijuana if a referendum about the same was carried out today. Hence, the government could demonstrate its respect for the will of the majority through legalizing marijuana. However, the desire to please the majority of Americans would have an impact on the adolescents. In particular, 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).

Another major reason why marijuana should be legalized is that there are no reported deaths attributed to marijuana. Gerber argues that there are no reported deaths that are attributed to the abuse 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. I believe substances are prohibited because of their adverse effects on human life and their ability to cause death. However, marijuana has never taken a single life yet it is still illegal in the United States. Therefore, marijuana should be legalized to enable its consumers to use it without fear of being imprisoned just like tobacco users and alcohol users enjoy their stimulants freely.

Although marijuana is not connected to any reported death case in the United States, prolonged consumption of marijuana brings 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. Hence, prolonged consumption of marijuana has a potential to impart memory loss and impaired concentration in its chronic user. Eventually,

most people in the United States would suffer from memory loss and impaired concentration if the federal government legalizes marijuana.

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 insertion of marijuana in the lists of approved medicines at a major AIDS epicenter in San Francisco (Mathre 51). As such, legalizing marijuana has a promising impact on the healthcare sector. As remarked by Mathre, legalization of marijuana would assist patients suffering from chronic diseases in alleviating pain to lead a comfortable life without feeling pain.

Marijuana is a potential source of revenue. Barbare argues that marijuana can generate revenues averaging between \$40 and \$100 billion annually if it were legalized and taxed just like alcohol and tobacco (276). Certainly, the Americans need government services including road construction, provision of affordable healthcare services, and access to affordable education among other services. Fascinatingly, the provision of these services requires the injection of an enormous government's money, which is acquired from taxes and other revenues. For that reason, the government should consider legalizing marijuana to benefit from taxing the sale of marijuana. By so doing, the federal government would gain more revenue to enable it to provide subsidized services to the citizens. As a result, the citizens would also benefit from the legalization of marijuana through access to cheap services offered by the federal government after taxing the sale of marijuana.

The paper has looked into the causes and effects of legalization of marijuana in the United States. In the paper, it is evident that the federal government has probable causes and reasons for legalizing marijuana. Firstly, the legalization of marijuana is supported by more than

61 percent of the Americans. Secondly, there are no reported deaths attributed to marijuana. Thirdly, marijuana has a medicinal value. Lastly, marijuana is a potential source of revenue just like tobacco and alcohol. All these reasons for legalizing marijuana bear some effects, some effects are appealing and some are distasteful. For instance, most adolescents would commence taking marijuana, people living with chronic diseases would be able to alleviate pain themselves, there would be increased cases of memory loss and impaired concentration and lastly, citizens would benefit from the revenue collected from taxes imposed on the sales of marijuana.



Works Cited

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