

Financial Benefits of legalizing marijuana Essay

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Just as alcohol prohibition during the 20's and 30's was not successful, marijuana prohibition has not been successful either, as evidenced by its current and increasing popularity in the United States. According to the deputy director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, Mr. Paul Armentano, marijuana was made illegal in the United States with the passing of the Marijuana Tax Act of 1937 (Armentano, 2014). Later, Congress classified marijuana as a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substance Act of 1970 (Armentano, 2014). Since then, hundreds of thousands of Americans have been arrested for the possession, distribution and use of marijuana. According to Professor Katherine Beckett, "there were 829,625 marijuana arrests" (Beckett, et.al., N.D.) in 2006 and that number is increasing. The debate on whether or not to legalize marijuana for recreational use has raged for decades but is beginning to see the light of day with the recent state-level victories. With Washington and Colorado guiding the way, the country as a whole is considering the issue of whether or not marijuana should be legalized. If legalized, tax revenues could potentially generate millions, if not billions, of dollars annually for state and federal coffers. Marijuana should be legalized. Legalization will not increase usage nor will the current prohibition decrease usage; however tax revenue from the distribution and sale of marijuana could benefit many state programs and even possibly eliminate governmental deficits in the future. Just because marijuana is illegal doesn't mean that it is less likely to

be used according to University of Washington Associate Professors Katherine Beckett and Steven Herbert (Beckett, et. al., N.D.). Accord..... middle of paperpletely stop the distribution and sale of marijuana then it should do the next best thing: legalize it and tax it. It should put that tax revenue where it will do the most good, which is to work for society. Sometimes the lessor of two evils has to be chosen. Here, legalization is the obvious choice.

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