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Time for medical marijuana?

July 25, 2011 at 5:55 am by [Jim McGrath](#)

Marijuana is on its way to being legal for medicinal purposes [in New Jersey](#).

But what about [New York](#)?

Gov. Chris Christie, conservative Republican and all, is ahead of Gov. Andrew Cuomo in that regard. That's likely to add to the buzz, if you'll pardon the expression, about the New Jersey governor as a possible [candidate for president](#).

Medical marijuana is an issue [in other states](#) as well.

The debate is an inevitable one, but also a worthwhile one in state capitals nationwide. It might as well [begin here](#), focusing on the potential health benefits versus the fear of further addiction.

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1. Further Addiction? Last time I checked Marijuana is a Habitual Drug.

Comment by BiggJ — July 25th, 2011 @ 8:15 am

2. I think that New York should make Medical Marijuana legal (I suffer from pain in my knees , which I have arthritis and just taking meds just don't help with the pain).

Comment by Cheryl — July 25th, 2011 @ 9:51 am

3. It's long past overdue. Marijuana should be completely decriminalized! How many countless New Yorkers are in jail for having a joint or two, or for growing a couple plants for their personal consumption. The only reason the government keeps "pot" illegal is because they can use it as an excuse to take more of our liberties away. Legalize it and tax the heck out of it!

Comment by Albany Resident — July 25th, 2011 @ 9:53 am

4. I don't understand the point of comment #1. Does he mean all habitual drugs are illegal and should be removed from the market? This, of course, would include all alcohol beverage, cigarettes, many prescription drugs, a lot of over the counter drugs, and even mouth washes that contain alcohol.

Comment by Jack — July 25th, 2011 @ 11:54 am

5. BiggJ – When was the last time you checked that, 1937? There has never been one legitimate long term study that has shown it to be physically addictive, NOT ONE.

Comment by iknowtruthismine — July 25th, 2011 @ 11:57 am

6. addiction? its not addicting its a plant with medicinal benefits that can help people

Comment by thetruthhurts — July 25th, 2011 @ 2:13 pm

7. BiggJ – What about legal drugs such as narcotic pain killers that are widely prescribed, dangerous and has become a nationwide epidemic?? These drugs that are HIGHLY addictive and more people are driving under the influence of them than we would like to believe. If doctors and drug companies can prescribe drugs that are extremely addictive (across social lines and classes), are synthetic and have numerous known side effects then I believe people should be able to utilize medical marijuana to ease what ails them.

Comment by CapitalDistrictProfessional — July 25th, 2011 @ 3:31 pm

8. Governor Christie is a genuine conservative but that does not disqualify him in any way from supporting the use of medical marijuana or the eventual decriminalization and even legalization of ALL marijuana. For example, I am someone who is SO conservative I make William F. Buckley look like a new dealer and I advocate for the criminality to be removed from ALL drugs. Most REAL conservatives have a nasty streak of libertarian running through us and we have questioned the so-called war on drugs for decades.

Marijuana has numerous legitimate medical indications and the idea that cancer patients (just one example) cannot have a ready supply without committing a "crime" is absurd and criminal unto itself. Sadly, don't hold your breath waiting for medical marijuana to become a reality. Our friends in law enforcement do not want even the decriminalization of pot to happen ... never mind so-called harder drugs. That's because law enforcement makes big salaries and bigger careers off of the "war on drugs". They do not want to see medical marijuana or the decriminalization of grass or any other drug.

We have experience in this country trying to curtail the manufacture, distribution and sale of alcohol in the 1920s. This "prohibition" was an abject failure and gave rise to organized crime (and the Kennedy fortune) the framework of which is still with us today.

How can a plant that grows wild on every continent except one be illegal ?? Further if you believe, as I do, that humans have been "catching a buzz" from all variety of naturally occurring substances since that dawn of time, then how can you possibly hope to stop this behavior simply by enacting laws. It's just silly.

I am 51 (nearly 52) years old and I have been hearing about "The War on Drugs" since I was in grade school. The war goes on because it has provided certain segments of law enforcement with lucrative careers and given politicians of both parties something to promise us they'll do something about. But where are the victories in this war? What do we have to show for the billions we've spent??

NOTHING !!

Nothing but prisons full of users and low level dealers. A policy that clogs our criminal justice system and costs us all billions more to incarcerate these people. Boy are we stupid or what ???

If people want to smoke grass ... let'em ! Wanna snort coke or smoke it, go right ahead. Heroin ... yup even that. Hey ... there are countries in Europe that have decriminalized ALL controlled substances and there has been no rise in the numbers of users or addicts.

That's because if people wanna do it there gonna do it. The law does not matter. It's just that simple!!

Comment by jerry — July 25th, 2011 @ 3:36 pm

9. #1 ... get a grip, MaryJane is no more addicting than alcohol, get into the the 21st century dude! Leagalize it and tax it. ... PERIOD!! It's all about personal consumption and individual control!!! Tired of hearing this same old argument against, based on the 1950's "Reefer Madness" movie!

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Comment by will mo — July 25th, 2011 @ 3:51 pm

0. will mo – Although I agree with your sentiment, marijuana has never been shown to be physically addictive, unlike alcohol, which can be addictive in certain individuals. Marijuana has no more addictive properties than chocolate eclairs, or Oreo cookies, though a psychological dependence on any of them is possible.

“Reefer Madness” was a 1937 propaganda film, produced to push anti-marijuana laws, deemed necessary to continue the old bureaucracy that previously tried to suppress alcohol during Prohibition. Bureaucracies do not like to die and the price we paid to keep that one going was definitely not worth the pain caused to our society for 74 years. The only reason it is not legal today is the alcohol lobby, that fears its monopoly on mind altering substances threatened, especially and only because they cannot control it through all production stages.

Comment by iknowtruthismine — July 25th, 2011 @ 5:43 pm

1. Alcohol is far worse than marijuana, Want to get the Gov't out of debt, Legalize it and Tax it. The First state to legalize it will be California, There will be a lot of stipulations on it. And a lot of Tax money made, a lot.

Comment by cpj22 — July 25th, 2011 @ 7:49 pm

2. Watch this video and then try to explain why Marijuana should be illegal. <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-9077214414651731007#>

Comment by Tony Nowakowski — July 25th, 2011 @ 8:33 pm

3. I don't know why you all are arguing with the first comment.

It is stating that MARIJUANA IS NOT ADDICTIVE (that's the reason for the question mark) and that it is merely a drug that is done due to a HABIT and NOT a physical or chemical drive to do it.

Get it?

Comment by Dan Palmer — July 26th, 2011 @ 7:33 am

4. ALL the people in the pot studies dropped out... just sayin'

Comment by jakester — July 26th, 2011 @ 2:33 pm

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