

Top 10 Marijuana Legalization Issues*

Top 10 Messages Against Legalization

1. Marijuana legalization will usher in America's new version of "Big Tobacco."

- x Already, private holding groups and financiers have raised millions of dollars to promote businesses that will sell marijuana and marijuana-related merchandise.
- x Cannabis food and candy is being marketed to children and are already responsible for a growing number of marijuana-related ER visits. Edibles with names such as "Ring Pots" and "Pot Tarts" inspired by common children candy and dessert products
- x Several, profitable vending machines containing products such as marijuana brownies are emerging throughout the country
- x The former head of Strategy for Microsoft has said he wants to "mint more millionaires than Microsoft" with marijuana and that he wants to create the "Starbucks of marijuana."

2. Marijuana use will increase under legalization

- x Because they are accessible and available, our legal drugs are used far more than our illegal ones. According to recent surveys, alcohol use is used by 52% of Americans and tobacco is used by 27% of Americans. Marijuana is used by 8% of Americans.
- x When RAND researchers analyzed California's 2010 effort to legalize marijuana, they concluded that the price of the drug could plummet and therefore marijuana consumption could increase

3. Marijuana is especially harmful to kids and adolescents.

- x Marijuana contributes to psychosis and schizophrenia for 1 in 6 kids who ever use it once and reduces IQ among those who started smoking before age 18.
- x According to data from the 2012 National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse, alcohol and cigarettes were the most readily accessible substances for youth 12 to 17 with 50% and 44%, respectively, reporting that they could obtain them within a day. Youth use

¹ Alface, I. (2013, May 27). Children Poisoned by Caking Marijuana Products. Nature World News Retrieved from <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/16/>

² Guley, B. (2013, May 9). Medbox: Dawn of the Marijuana Vending Machine. Bloomberg Businessweek Retrieved from <http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-09/medboxdawn-of-the-marijuana-vending-machine>

³ Ex-Microsoft exec plans 'Starbucks' of marijuana. (2013, May 31). United Press International Retrieved from http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2013/05/31/VIDEX-Microsoft-exec-plans-Starbucks-of-marijuana/UP41161369985400/

⁴ NSDUH, Summary of National Findings, 2012. Retrieved from <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2012SummNatFindDetTables/NationalFindings/NSDUHresults2012.pdf>

⁵ Kilmer, B., Caulkins, J.P., Pacula, R.L., MacCoun, R.J., & Reuter, P.H. Altered State? Assessing How Marijuana Legalization