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### **Marijuana Should Not be Legalized**

It would be incredibly dreadful for society as a whole and people individually if marijuana were to be legalized in the United States. Marijuana is destructive to the human body physically and mentally. The drugs legalization would cause an increase in crime and drug use.

Legalizing marijuana would lead to an increase in crime, by forcing the drug dealers to move on to more dangerous drugs such as, heroin, opium, speed, cocaine and crack. The criminals are out there on the streets to make money and become famous. They will find a way to do just that whether it's selling marijuana or other harmful drugs. The police don't spend that much time pursuing marijuana users and the distribution of the drug at present, so it would not necessarily free up a great deal of time for the law enforcement and judicial systems to go after and convict other criminals.

Legalizing marijuana would lead to an increase in drug use. People who previously did not attempt to acquire and try the drug because it was illegal would now be free to seek it. Law abiding drug free citizens would turn into legal addicts and be tempted to try other more dangerous drugs. Marijuana lowers your inhibitions and fogs your thought process so much that even strong-willed people would try other drugs if put in front of their face. It is considered a gateway drug, one that will cause people to try more serious drugs, which can lead to additional serious crimes.

Marijuana is extremely damaging to your body and mind. The physical damage includes throat, mouth, and lung cancer, difficulty breathing, and chronic halitosis. It can negatively affect sexual performance and will definitely make you lethargic. It can cause an unhealthy

increase in appetite, which is a definite formula for weight gain. Marijuana also increases the chances of mental problems such as paranoia and depression if used continually, especially during stressful situations. These mental disorders can lead to debilitating panic attacks, feelings of worthlessness and even suicide, forcing users to seek prescription drugs such as antidepressants and tranquilizers, both of which can be very addictive and harmful if not used exactly as ordered by a doctor.

The potential harm to society and the people in it far outweighs the peace of mind that marijuana users will gain through the legalization of marijuana. Its legalization would cause crime and drug use to rise. Marijuana is a vicious drug that hurts everyone right down to the friends and families of the users. The current laws should remain intact keeping marijuana illegal. Our government should instead work on the complete opposite and attempt to get people off of illicit drugs.