

TOP 10 REASONS NOT TO LEGALIZE MARIJUANA

10: IT WOULD STILL BE ILLEGAL

In July 2011 the federal government reaffirmed marijuana as a Schedule I substance; i.e., no accepted medical use and high abuse potential. Therefore, its possession and use remains a federal crime. Since federal law preempts state law, marijuana would still be illegal in Colorado.

9: MARIJUANA POSSESSION/USE IS NOT IMPACTING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Proponents often make misleading statements about marijuana arrests and the jail population. In Colorado, the use and possession of less than two ounces (120 - 168 cigarettes) is treated as a traffic violation with a fine and not jail time.

8: WHY REPEAT AMSTERDAM'S MISTAKE

The wrong type of people would be attracted to Colorado and for the wrong reasons. We need tourists attracted by our pristine streams and beautiful mountains, not as the mecca for getting 'stoned.'

7: NEGATIVE IMAGE OF COLORADO

If marijuana is legalized under Colorado law, our state would be considered the 'POT CAPITAL' of the nation. This notoriety would have a negative impact on attracting new businesses and families deterred by Colorado's image and quality of life issues. This could also impact decisions to send students to Colorado institutes of higher education.

6: HARM TO EXISTING BUSINESSES AND THE ECONOMY

Substance abuse studies have shown that businesses and employers will experience greater rates of absenteeism, industrial accidents and tardiness as well as less productivity with a potential work force regularly using marijuana. This not only results in economic losses, but conflicts with the federal Drug Free Workplace requirements and companies losing federal contracts. Businesses would be less likely to stay or move into a state where drug use related risks are high.

5: BLINDSIDE ECONOMICS

At best, potential tax revenue generated by legalizing marijuana will cover only 15% of the collateral costs to our community such as: increased drug treatment,

emergency room visits, crime, traffic accidents and school ‘drop-outs’ to name just a few of the costs related to marijuana use.

4: MARIJUANA USE WOULD INCREASE

Marijuana use and its negative health, behavioral and societal impacts will increase among both youth and adults. The best estimates from experts project that the number of regular users would at least double and likely triple in the most vulnerable 12 – 25 age range.

3: TREATMENT AND ADDICTION RATES WOULD RISE

Regular marijuana use can be addictive and lead to deteriorating behavior, particularly in young people. In 2009, 830,000 youth had marijuana addiction characteristics. Sixty-eight percent of youth in drug treatment are there for marijuana use.

2: ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

As parents and citizens, we have a responsibility to prepare our youth for a healthy and successful future. The basis for their future lies in providing them with a quality educational environment. If marijuana was legalized, it is estimated that 20 – 30 percent of our school-aged children will become regular marijuana users. That will negatively affect their attendance, concentration, memory, brain development and thus academic achievement and participation in a positive educational setting.

Walt Disney: **“Our greatest natural resource is the mind of our children.”**

Let’s not allow those minds to be polluted with pot.

1: DEATHS FROM IMPAIRED DRIVING WOULD INCREASE

Marijuana use affects coordination, decision-making and perception which directly results in impaired driving. Annually, approximately 50 people are killed in Colorado traffic accidents due to people driving under the influence of marijuana. With the increased use of marijuana, we can project that figure will at least double.

THE ABOVE ARE BOLD STATEMENTS BUT CAN BE SUPPORTED BY STUDIES, RESEARCH AND PAST EXPERIENCE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

WWW.HEALTHYDRUGFREECOLORADO.ORG

CONSIDERING THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF LEGALIZING MARIJUANA, ASK YOURSELF:

“Do we want to make Colorado the country’s ‘experimental lab’ with such potentially devastating human, economic and social costs so a small fraction of people can ‘get stoned’ with impunity?”

IT DOES NOT PASS THE ‘COMMON SENSE’ TEST.
