Marijuana vendors in the CNMI

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A general browser search with Google on October 9th, 2018 on the topic of “Marijuana in the CNMI”- resulted in 93,500 hits with the majority of the publications being local news articles stating both the pros and cons regarding marijuana being sold in stores as recreational or medical use. The importance of the topic to the commonwealth is obvious since the majority of the articles are local news reports starting in 2005 and increasing drastically in 2016-18. Most articles touch up on the positive outcome of marijuana in the CNMI and that it would create history for the island. Others just talk about comparison from states that already has it legalized and how it is affecting them since then. Four of academic literatures are fully supporting the idea of having marijuana sold in stores as recreational and medical purposes. One article states the various usage of marijuana on a daily. Another is an article about the crime rate being sturdy since the legalization of marijuana in some states.

So as everyone should have known, marijuana has been the talk of the decade in the CNMI. From the start, debate after debate, meeting after meeting, the endless discussion about the legalization of marijuana wages on until this day. Recently, marijuana has been legalized for both recreational and medical purposes by the governor of the CNMI. Many people say that marijuana is a drug and therefore shouldn’t be legalized. But an article I looked up says that marijuana is less of a bad drug than everyone makes it to be. According to drugpolicy.org, the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA) believes marijuana should be removed from the criminal justice system and regulated like alcohol and tobacco.

One of the academic sources provides factual explanation of the process of producing medical marijuana. It begins with a plantation, then a couple transfers as the plant gets bigger. Fast forwarding to when the plant is fully grown (approximately 4’ to 7’ mature plants), the buds are taken off by hand and brought to an air flow chamber where it gets cured at 25 degrees Celsius. Afterwards the buds go through a series of tests for potency and moisture level by the lab staff. Then the buds are coarsely chopped for easier use and then packed into medical packages and sent off (cannimed.ca).

Derrickson’s (2014) studies state the difference between decriminalizing and legalizing marijuana. As for decriminalizing, the penalties remain intact for violations involving marijuana possession although legalizing it removes all state imposed penalties for specific activities regarding marijuana. Washington Initiatives 502 legalizes the possession of small amounts of marijuana for individuals above the age of 21. It also states a restriction and requirement of licensing the product. Meaning in order to sell or plant marijuana one has to have a marijuana license. My study focused more on the pros and cons of having marijuana sold in stores. Surrounding the idea that it is already legalized, would the government restrict the production and usage of marijuana from local vendors. Digging deeper into the experiences that other states had and comparing it to how the CNMI will move forward with this notion.

This essay summarizes the literature reviewed for the student researcher’s investigation on Marijuana vendors in the CNMI. An economical perspective regarding the legalization of marijuana and how it’ll proceed from then on has been stated clearly. Then the restrictions and requirements of possessing marijuana also have been stated.

Reference

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