

Debate paper final thomas essay



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The primary arguments in debating the pros and cons of legalizing medical marijuana nationwide focus primarily on medical benefits, disease prevention, medical risk, substance abuse, and legal issues. Many scientific professionals and patients claim medical marijuana provides some medical benefits. Although it has been a touchy subject between the states and federal governments to legalize or not medical marijuana nationwide, there are three important points to take into consideration; first, marijuana is a potent analgesic in patients with chronic pain. Second, it is a strong antiemetic for patients receiving cancer chemotherapy treatment. Third and most important, medical marijuana should be legal, so patients do not have to break the law to receive treatment.

Across the nation state organizations strictly supervise medical marijuana to ensure it is grown, sold, and used properly. According to "Harbored Health Center" (n. D.

), which is one of the United States largest dispensaries of medical marijuana, "Harbored Health Center sees this as a key for achieving safe and legal access to medical cannabis for all suffering and sick Americans". Physicians should be able to prescribe medical marijuana to tenants with chronic pain without fear of punishment by the federal government. Studies have proven medical marijuana can act as a natural herbal medicine, which is nontoxic and usually brings joys and promotes a normal life to those living in chronic pain. 'Whole cannabis and its extracts provide an entourage of cannabinoids, terpenoids, and flavorings that combine to create a synergy of benefits in holistic treatment of chronic and intractable pain" (Russo, MO,

2003, up). In addition, medical marijuana is an effective analgesic for people receiving cancer chemotherapy treatment.

Cancer has many classifications; the most painful one is bone cancer in which many physicians recommend or prescribe medical marijuana. Some of the more serious symptoms of cancer are nausea, vomiting, and extreme weakness, which are side effects of some anticancer drugs. Controlling or lessening symptoms resulting from anticancer drugs is critical for suffering patients. Physicians prescribe medical marijuana based on the patient's age, general medical condition, and other related factors. According to "Marijuana use in Supportive Care for Cancer Patients" (2000), "Some anticancer drugs cause nausea and vomiting because they affect parts of the brain that control vomiting and/or irritate the stomach lining" (Nausea and Vomiting).

Pain and suffering are always present in the seriously advanced cancer patients; therefore, these are the cases marijuana plays an important role as a medicine. Patients require the legalization of medical marijuana to avoid him or her breaking the law while consuming the product. Patients with symptoms of chronic pain, nausea, and vomiting because of the effects of chemotherapy will endeavor to obtain marijuana as a medication even though it may not be legal to purchase it. Allowing patients to live in pain is difficult, and it is even more difficult for patients who directly suffer in pain. However, patients or family members will find a way to obtain medical marijuana to help ease the pain and discomfort. Therefore, to avoid these situations the federal government should consider legalizing medical marijuana nationwide.

Another argument for legalizing medical marijuana is Dehydrogenation's (TECH), which is the key ingredient in marijuana. Recent studies have shown it may also be the key to help prevent and treat Alchemist's disease. TECH is the main component because; TECH in marijuana as been shown to compound and block the formation of plaques that clog the brain in Alchemist's more efficiently than the current Alchemist's drugs. This discovery was made by a laboratory lead by Kim Ganja, PhD, and director Of the Worm Institute of Research and Medicine at Scripps Research Institute. According to the statement made by Ganja in a news release, (Denton, 2006), " While we are certainly not advocating the use of illegal drugs, these findings offer convincing evidence that TECH possesses remarkable inhibitory qualities, especially when compared to [Alchemist's drugs] currently available to tenants". Ganja stated, (Denton, 2006), " Although our study is far from final, it does show that there is a previously unrecognized molecular mechanism through which TECH may directly affect the progression of Alchemist's disease". A team of researchers on Sand's team discovered that TECH blocked an enzyme called psychotherapist's. According to Sand's team, (Denton, 2006), " Psychotherapist's speeds the formation of myeloid plaque in the brains of people who suffer from Alchemist's disease'.

The studies have shown TECH not only helps to improve the disease of Alchemist's, but it also ay prevent the symptoms and advancement Of Alchemist. One of the biggest reasons it is hard to link marijuana to Alchemies is because doctors still do not know the exact cause of

Alchemist's. Doctors who do not support the therapeutic effectiveness of cannabis for Alchemist's still use marijuana to ease patients symptoms.

The side effects of marijuana as hallucinogen is the primary reasons physicians recommend it is used as medical sedative in the relief of a patient's discomfort. Additionally, marijuana has also been found to relieve symptoms of many other major diseases. This includes glaucoma, asthma, and muscle spasms. Marijuana also helps with appetite for people who suffer from Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). AIDS patients lose their appetite because of the medication they use. Medical marijuana assists the terminally ill patients in leading a better quality of life. By smoking marijuana, it can give rapid relief to patients suffering significantly from serious diseases such as Alleghenies. This quickly improves the mental and comfort outlook on life by the terminally ill so they can still maintain their human dignity and experience with less suffering.

Legalizing medical marijuana has several inherent risks. For example, legalizing medical marijuana nationwide will have unintended negative effects and fuels the argument against this initiative. The first negative effect is commonly known as the gateway effect. The gateway effect is the connection between marijuana use and the subsequent use of more illicit drugs, such as heroin, cocaine, and L SD.

Scientific models and studies from a number of different countries and cultures support the existence of the gateway effect. " A proportional hazards model demonstrated that those using marijuana more than 50 times per year were 140 times more likely to progress to hard drugs than those

test subjects using no cannabis” (Moral, MacAfee, & Paddock, 2002, p. 6). Another perspective is drug use rarely initiates with a hard core drug and regresses to marijuana. As Moral, MacAfee, and Paddock (2002) state, “ A longitudinal study of 1 265 New Zealand citizens identified as drug abusers revealed only three cases (. 237 percent) in which hard drug use was initiated prior to marijuana use”. The previous two examples demonstrate the relationship between the uses of marijuana leading to more illicit drug use tit science as the foundation to back the concept of the gateway effect.

Additionally, another argument against the legalization of medical marijuana nationwide crosses into the ethical and moral boundaries of practicing medicine. Specifically, prescribing marijuana to patients has the potential for secondary on personal health. The primary responsibility of physicians is to cure patients, not to cause other illnesses in the process of healing. The British Lung Foundation highlights, “ Studies comparing the clinical effects of cannabis smokers have demonstrated a significantly higher prevalence of heroic and acute respiratory symptoms such as chronic cough, bronchitis episodes, and respiratory cancer” (A Smoking Gun, 2002, p. 2). Of course, the same could be said of normal tobacco use; however, the typical method of smoking marijuana involves a longer inhalation rate and greater opportunity for carbon monoxide to attack the lungs.

One other health effect of medical marijuana use is the potential to weaken the patient’s immune system. “ Infections of the lung are due to a combination of marijuana smoking-related damage to cells lining the bronchial passage and impairment of the principal immune cells in the small air sacs caused by cannabis” (A Smoking Gun, 2002, p.). Physicians, as the

healers of society must consider the implications of prescribing medical marijuana, morally, and ethically in relation to the health of the patient.

Finally, the most compelling argument in opposition of legalizing medical marijuana nationwide is the conflict between state and federal laws.

According to Americans for Safe Access Association (2011), " Federal law still considers marijuana a dangerous illegal drug with no acceptable medical value. Also to further substantiate the position the UnitedStates Supreme Court upheld a ruling of the federal government as the constitutional authority to prohibit marijuana for all purposes".

The Supreme Courts position empowers the federal government to prosecute medical marijuana patients, even if they reside in a state where medical marijuana use is legal in accordance with state law (Americans for Safe Access Association, 2011). Further investigation shows numerous federal cases in which judges would not allow medical marijuana as a defense, even though a physician recommended the use as a pain control substance and legalized by rent state of residence. Even if the remaining states legalize medical marijuana today, the federal government considers marijuana use, possession, and distribution against the law and chargeable as a federal offense. The practice of using marijuana to treat patients with serious health conditions has been prevalent in the medical community for many years.

Medical marijuana is currently legal in 13 states, but legalization is note at the federal level. The supporting arguments primarily include examples of patients suffering from various medical ailments, which result in chronic pain and nausea. The argument in support of the legalization of medical marijuana nationwide depended primarily on emotional appeal, and less on

scientific data to validate the proposition. The second supporting argument indicated emotional appeal similar to the first. However, this argument referenced some scientific studies, which showed how TECH directly affects the advancement of Alchemist's.

On the other hand, the contention against legalizing medical marijuana referenced substantiated data from multiple scientific studies to show using marijuana can include social implications such serving as a “ gateway’ drug to more illicit drugs.