

Aimee Wester
Persuasion Speech Outline

Topic: Medical Marijuana

General Purpose: To persuade

Specific Purpose: To persuade the audience that the federal government should legalize the prescription and use of medical marijuana.

Thesis: Marijuana has many medicinal benefits and minimal side effects and should be legalized by the federal government for all American citizens to use as a medical treatment. **[Policy statement]**

Outline Organization of Main Points: Monroe's Motivated Sequence

Introduction

[Attention Getter] Jayden David is a six-year-old boy who used to suffer from extremely frequent and severe seizures due to a rare form of epilepsy. Because he and his father live in the state of California, when all other forms of medication failed them, Jayden's suffering was able to be treated with medical marijuana. Within days he had gone from not being able to eat solid food, bathe, or walk, to running, playing, and talking **[Story: Lah]**. **[Audience Connection and Topic Orientation]** What if all the patients in America could be treated efficiently and effectively, just like Jayden? Marijuana is a single drug that can solve much suffering over a broad spectrum of medical issues and can help patients as an alternative treatment. **[Preview and Thesis]** However, the medication that can be beneficial to so many is illegal and therefore cannot be prescribed; those that use medical marijuana as necessity are seen as criminals in the eyes of the federal government. Marijuana has many medicinal benefits and minimal side effects and should be legalized by the federal government for all American citizens to use as a medical treatment.

[Transition: There is a need for alternative treatments for those who do not respond to conventional medicines, and yet they are not only unavailable, but illegal to possess.]

Body

- I. All patients need to be provided with the best treatment options for their conditions, including alternative treatments such as medical marijuana. **[Motivational Appeal: Vital]**
 - A. Criminalizing cannabis prevents patients from finding viable treatment options and violates a right to health and safety.
 1. All men have "certain unalienable rights" such as "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" which are not fulfilled by the federal government if they are refused treatments which can improve the quality of or even save patients' lives.
 2. "To deny a physician the right to discuss, recommend, and prescribe marijuana to patients is a direct violation of the physician-patient relationship." **[Quote: Clark]**
 3. Patients can resort to the purchase black market cannabis which puts them at risk legally and physically.

[Transition: Cannabis has been proven to be beneficial medically in many circumstances, and yet is forbidden to those who need it.]

II. Medical marijuana is a more effective treatment than all other conventional treatments.

[Motivational Appeal: Compare/Contrast]

A. Medical marijuana treats a number of different diseases.

1. Cannabinoids (chemical compounds produced by cannabis) **[Definition: Lee]** are what affects the body's molecular signals.
2. Marijuana for medical use has been reported to be beneficial since introduced in 2900 BC in China and all throughout history by many societies. **[ProCon.org]**
3. Cannabinoids can help treat symptoms related to AIDs, MS, glaucoma, epilepsy, and cancer. **[Example: Clark]**
4. In a patent given to the American Department of Health and Human services, it states that cannabinoids have been known to be "neuroprotectants," and help reduce the effects of Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, depression, psychosis, and protects the brain against alcohol poisoning. **[Lee]** **[Rational Appeal: Authority]**
5. As opposed to prescription drugs which have high overdose rates (in 2010 it was responsible for approximately 23,000 deaths), marijuana has no reported overdoses.

[Statistics: Wing]

B. Medical marijuana can combat the side effects of existing treatments.

1. According to research done at St. George's University in London, some cannabinoids can not only kill cancerous cells and slow their growth, they do not have the unpleasant side effects of chemotherapy or radiation because they do not affect all rapidly growing cells **[Bekiempis]** **[Rational Appeal: Authority]**
2. Marinol is a pharmaceutical drug that is a legal, synthetic form of the cannabinoid THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) used to counteract the side effects of chemotherapy and AIDs treatments. **[Clark]**
 - a. Marinol has been known to be ineffective, extremely expensive, and difficult for patients to consume.
 - b. THC consumed through genuine marijuana plants have been reported to be much more effective and less expensive compared to Marinol pills.

C. Medical marijuana can be used without psychoactive effects.

1. A study done by the Institute of Medicine concluded that "the benefits of smoking marijuana were limited to the effects of the smoke, but nonetheless recommended that the drug be given under close supervision to patients who do not respond to other therapies." **[Quote: Clark]** **[Rational Appeal: Authority]**
2. CBD (or cannabidoil) is the nonpsychoactive chemical within cannabis which counteracts THC (a psychoactive component) and is the main medically significant chemical within the plant. **[Clark]**
3. Medical cannabis can be administered in liquid form, so as to not be harmful to the lungs, such as the case of Jayden David. **[Lah]**

[Transition: But what would happen if medical marijuana was made available for widespread use?]

- III. Arguments have been made that allowing the use of medical marijuana would increase the recreational abuse of a psychoactive substance that is a “gateway drug” and can lead to the use of harder substances and therefore should not be legalized.
- A. Studies from the Institute of Medicine show that if the use of marijuana was legalized, it would not increase illicit drug use within the general population, nor would it influence users to continue to harder drugs. **[Rational Appeal: A Fortiori Analogy]**
 - B. The goal of legalization is to alleviate the pain and suffering of patients in need of relief, not to promote the use of illegal and harmful substances. **[Clark]**
 - 1. The harm of smoke from marijuana use is outweighed by its medical benefits.
 - 2. The role of marijuana as a “gateway drug” has not been proven to be true.
 - 3. Public education can reduce the misinterpretation of the legalization of cannabis use.
- IV. The federal government should legalize medical marijuana for use as prescribed by a physician for those in need of its beneficial qualities.
- A. Marijuana is classified as a Schedule 1 substance, which makes all possession of it illegal except for research purposes. **[Definition: Clark]**
 - B. Reclassifying cannabis as a Schedule 2 drug would make it legal to be obtained as an alternate treatment option by the prescription of a doctor through a pharmacy.
 - 1. Operating a vehicle while using medical marijuana would be illegal, as it inhibits reaction time and depth perception, however this is not uncommon for certain prescribed medicines and therefore should be regulated similarly in this aspect **[Rational Appeal: Judicial Analogy]**
 - 2. This would still allow the government to regulate use of the drug, reducing abuse as it would still be illegal to possess the drug without a prescription.

Conclusion

In conclusion, there are minimal risks associated with the use of medical marijuana, especially with the availability of alternate forms to be administered; it can be easily regulated to reduce possible abuse and its massive amount of advantages would outweigh any negative stereotypes connected with its use. Those whose circumstances would improve from the usage of medical marijuana should be allowed to choose this alternative treatment if needed, otherwise they are left helpless to their conditions; therefore, prescribing cannabis should be legalized for the general welfare of the American people.

Work Cited

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