

Pot or Not: A Debate on the Future of Marijuana in Connecticut and America

Written by Australian Business

NORWALK, CT, October 10, 2013 **/24-7PressRelease/** -- On October 30th MCCA (Midwestern Connecticut Council of Alcoholism) will host a debate on the future of marijuana at 7pm at the Ives Concert Hall in Danbury, CT. The decriminalization, medical marijuana and legalization debates are at the fore of American public debate. Free and open to the public, the debate is an opportunity for the public to hear both sides of this controversial issue.

The tide is turning on the use and acceptance of marijuana and public opinion appears to be favoring medical use and decriminalization. Connecticut recently joined the growing list of states that have legalized marijuana for medical use and several states—Washington and Colorado—have legalized it for adult use. Yet under federal law, marijuana is still a Schedule 1 controlled substance adding to the controversy.

For every argument in favor of legalization, decriminalization, or medical use there are arguments against them. Some argue that legalizing marijuana would lower the criminal impact on funding of criminal organizations such as the Mexican cartel. Others argue that putting marijuana in the hands of corporations - who market to teens - would be just as harmful. There are differing views within the medical field, a battle over the economic impact, as well as the impact of criminal activity.

Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds, who will be debating against legalization stated that, "There seems to be a growing acceptance of marijuana legalization, yet the public hasn't been properly educated about the costs related to the drug's impact on young people, impaired driving, the workplace and local economies." Reynolds added, "What seems like an ideological debate led by Big Marijuana and their legalization advocates, will have real-life consequences for families, schools and entire communities."

Debating in favor of reformed marijuana laws, Erik Williams said, "The American public has come to the rightful conclusion that the Drug War has been an abject failure and they are upset at the 40 years of taxpayer-funded lies." Williams continued, "They crave honest discussion absent of fear or conjecture. When given the truth and the facts, Americans overwhelmingly support marijuana law reform. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to forward that conversation."

As the hot topic of marijuana makes its way into conversations around the country, the amount of available information keeps on growing, however there is not a lot of consistency. Pot or Not will provide an opportunity for business owners, parents, civic leaders, healthcare professionals, law enforcement, social workers, mental health care professionals, and educators to hear both sides of this important issue.

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The Debaters Jeffrey L. Reynolds, Ph.D., Executive Director from LICADD (Long Island Council of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence) and Erik Williams, Executive Director of the Connecticut Chapter of Norml will go head-to-head on the issue, each sharing in-depth knowledge on this topic with the public.

The Moderator Terrie Wood, CT State Representative will be the moderator for the debate. Wood is serving her 3rd term as State Representative for Darien and Norwalk. She currently serves as ranking member on the Human Services committee, and also serves on the Regulations Review and Appropriations committees. Ms. Wood served on the Regulations Review Committee for Medical Marijuana in the state of Connecticut.

About MCCA MCCA is the primary provider of substance abuse prevention, evaluation and treatment services in the western Connecticut. We believe that alcoholism, drug addiction, problem gambling and co-occurring disorders are treatable illnesses and that those affected - including other family members - can recover. For more information visit our website at mccaonline.com.