



Local reaction: New study on legalizing marijuana (Part 2)

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On Monday we told you about a new study from the Cato Institute saying the impact of legalizing marijuana does not affect crime or economics.

On Tuesday we wanted to look specifically at the economic side of things and get some of your opinions.

The economics professor we talked with said we really need to pay attention to a lot of research should we ever consider legalizing marijuana in our state.

He also says that it could be beneficial, but we have to be careful since we already have a big-time drug problem here in West Virginia.

"I think there's potential there to help the economy in terms of productively, in terms of growing marijuana, and it could also help the state if we levy a high tax on that marijuana," said Professor John Deskins, and Associate Professor of Economics and the Director of the Bureau for Business and Economics Research at WVU. "But, it's also very important to see how it may effect drug abuse outcomes and problems in the state. I would be careful if we proceed."

We also talked to a lot of you, and while no one wanted to go on camera we did get a mixed reaction. Some of you thought it was a good idea and it would help the economy, but others worry it would contribute to the drug problems.

The same reaction can be found in the social media comments we received, here's what a few of you had to say on Facebook.

"Why are we still debating and asking this question? It should have been done a long time ago," said Justin Gantle in a Facebook comment.

"No. That would just be more money for them to misappropriate," said Stacy Hovatter in another Facebook comment.