



Local reaction: New study on Legalizing marijuana

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According to a new study by Cato Institute, the legalization of marijuana does not affect crime or economics.

So with this said, do officials think we should legalize it?

One officer we talked to said, so many factors need to go into legalizing marijuana and overall, he doesn't think it's beneficial.

"I've been fighting that for 20 some years in law enforcement," said Deputy Chief James Chamberlain with the Clarksburg Police Department. "And other issues I could see with these that would not be good -- people would use that as a gateway drug."

And a pair of delegates weighed in on this too. They said they'd be in favor of certain medical marijuana being legal, but across the board, they're not in favor of legalizing it.

"If it could bring relief to someone's pain, relieve their suffering, then I'm absolutely for it, as far as a recreational tool, absolutely not," said Delegate Patsy Trecost (D-Harrison).

"I believe you give people a false sense that it's (marijuana) not harmful and it is very harmful just like tobacco and alcohol is harmful," said Delegate Terry Waxman (R-Harrison). "If there is a form of marijuana that's not the smokeable kind, something you could then be used for recreational purposes, I would definitely consider that."

But, one group, who is in favor of legalizing it, says this study and many others are encouraging.

"The studies come out nearly, it seems like, on a weekly basis, in favor of legalizing and regulating cannabis for health use," said David Dawson, Executive Director of WV Norml. "It's encouraging that it comes up so regularly."