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### Political Corruption Towards Medical Cannabis:

Knowledge is developed through analysis of properly structured facts, therefore knowledge is developed over time; with proper foundations of developing knowledge scholars use examined facts to support their claims. When talking about politics and medical cannabis there is an ongoing engagement between what is good and bad legislation, in terms of medical cannabis and its regulation. Unlike the scholars who use examined facts to support their claims, the topic of medical cannabis is always analyzed without an appropriate framework that could be supported by proper scientific, historical, or ethical points. Hence the decision process comes in question, why would certain legislation such as those which prohibit the medical use of cannabis pass without any proper foundation on cases within the topic of medical cannabis? The idea of corruption within politics arise as the supporting evidence towards medical cannabis is unveiled. But with every dishonest system there is a bases for its misconduct, therefore the idea of corruption within politicians and secondary parties becomes more prominent within the parameters of legislation for medical cannabis. Without proper support from scientific evidence that is available to the public, politicians and pharmaceutical companies may halt legislation that otherwise could properly regulate medical cannabis, and in turn may negatively affect those who can benefit from this natural medication.

The United States is set solely on the idea of freedom, choice, and chance but with the power that politicians are given there is no real room for choice from the public. This relationship creates a dynamic between the public and those in power as a result of the possible

corruption that may occur if the representative chooses to follow any other direction, deriving from other personal goals or tactics opposite of what voting citizens want. “Pot Renewal Politics” further explains the ways in which legalization of medical cannabis can affect individual states in long term views.

States and/or lawmakers that legalize recreational marijuana face a multitude of political and legal risks . Jurisdictions legalizing substances still considered illegal by the federal government jeopardize their relationship with the federal government. (Fisk 193)

These long term effects are also largely emphasised from politicians, to give a sense of understanding to the public so that issues may not arise. But as the public who is pro medical cannabis start to push for legislation it becomes prominent that politicians are aiming away from creating a law that is pro medical cannabis.

Corporations such as Big Pharma are one of the reasons why legislation and advocacy for medical cannabis has slowed down, due to the fact that they control a big portion of supported information for pharmaceutical or health based knowledge. This allows created misinformation to strike feelings such as fear to those who know little about medical cannabis. Sobo quotes from Ingraham to credit failed legislation and its connection to pharmaceutical companies such as big pharma by using tactics to convey emotion or even sway those who create the laws. “ Present efforts to ‘reschedule’ cannabis federally has failed, partly due to active lobbying by pharmaceutical companies (Ingraham,2016). These corporations/companies use tactics just as politicians to receive what they want instead of what the public needs, this creates another form

of corruption, but within cannabis legislation both parties work together to create a bigger negative effect on those who want to try cannabis as an alternative medicine.

As stated before archives are the bases for all supported claims that need background within a historical lense, but when bringing points of accurate and detailed historical facts on medical cannabis to the table it is misinterpreted or unheard by those against the use of cannabis as medication. In the past, before cannabis was labeled as a schedule 1 drug by the U.S government, it was known for its properties. These actions are thought to be brought by legislators and corporations that believed that financial growth within both parties was better than the health of the public, this is a slight reflection to the taxes of goods which made profit for the government but only struggle for its citizens. Sobo states that medical cannabis was prominent in the U.S western culture, becoming a medicine for many ailments, but after many years the medicine was labeled as a schedule 1 drug which later restricted all use of the substance in the country.

Ingestible cannabis remained on many official western medical formularies into the early 1900's" and " The controlled substances act of 1970 tightened US restrictions; many nations followed suit. ( Sobo 191-192)

These statements show that the corporations and political parties involved hid the information of medical cannabis as much as they could, to continue their uproar in finances through restriction of a multi-use drug and substitute it for expensive and profitable single use medications.

As theories on the matter start to become prominent within media, it becomes ratified that those who want medical cannabis to become legal are only doing so for their own gain. But as information comes out to the public they start to see the one thing they truly understand,

numbers. The York Daily Report investigated such numbers after a Pennsylvania representative stated that he had no connection to pharmaceutical companies and that his vote on the bill was personal, allowing the bill for medical cannabis to not pass. But when his campaign was analyzed by degreed financial investigators, it was prominent that a lie was said.

Baker's campaign received \$3,000 from political action committees for pharmaceutical companies Pfizer, Merck and AstraZeneca in 2014. In 2012, AstraZeneca gave Baker's campaign \$5,000. The same committees, however, paid collectively more money to state lawmakers who voted for S.B. 3, according to the committees' online reports. (Walters 1)

These numbers unlock more truth to citizens who believed that legalizing cannabis wasn't in correlation to pharmaceutical companies and their local political offices, but now that facts and numbers are involved it becomes harder to debunk. At the end of the day the visible financial gain from both parties (pharmaceutical companies, and political parties) is very prominent when analyzing the corrupt relationship, from the original legislation which tightened regulations on medical cannabis to the ongoing negation of new legislation that may properly regulate the use of medical cannabis. But this doesn't mean that citizens who oppose medical cannabis don't have valid points within the matter, whether they understand or believe the corruption that may be happening between political parties and pharmaceutical companies or not.

Medical cannabis, just like any substance, is a choice therefore when analyzing the points of those who oppose the drug, it becomes valid that there is true understanding of the negative effects that may occur. This is supported through facts from companies that also regulate other medications and substances such as the FDA (the federal agency of food and drug). The FDA

states that they are aware that medical marijuana has some chemical compounds that may help individuals but in no way do they support the actual use of cannabis. This reasoning allows those who oppose it to support their claims by referencing the possible negative effects that the FDA states may occur. But without individuals actually researching the bases or foundation of medical cannabis, it becomes prominent that they are only following parts of speech that a federal agency may say.

The FDA has not approved marijuana as a safe and effective drug for any indication. The agency has, however, approved one specific drug product that contains the purified substance cannabidiol, one of more than 80 active chemicals in marijuana, for the treatment of seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome or Dravet syndrome in patients 2 years of age and older. The FDA has also approved two drugs containing a synthetic version of a substance that is present in the marijuana plant and one other drug containing a synthetic substance that acts similarly to compounds from marijuana but is not present in marijuana. (FDA 2018)

As the continuing argument of medical cannabis evolves it is sanctioned off back to proper support from facts and knowledge on the topic, but through analysis of several points most who may oppose the drug may not actually know the components of medical cannabis. The FDA states the components which are useful but in fact also oppose the use of cannabis in any form. This allows a form of support to those who oppose medical cannabis by stating the possible negative effects. This creates a dynamic between the corrupt political and pharmaceutical

companies and the public who may understand the developed background information of medical cannabis, such as the chemical components within.

Medical cannabis overall is looked at as a social issue, therefore when properly formatting the known facts of the drug further information and analysis can be stated. Bridgman and Abazia from “Medical Cannabis: History Pharmacology, and Implications for the Acute care Setting” both are certified doctors with a pharmaceutical degree, they give in detail information on medical cannabis and in-turn evidential support on the lacking knowledge of medical cannabis.

THC is known to be the major psychoactive component of cannabis mediated by activation of the CB receptors in the central nervous system; however, this very mechanism limits its use due to untoward adverse effects. It is now accepted that other phytocannabinoids with weak or no psychoactivity have promise as therapeutic agents in humans. The cannabinoid that has sparked the most interest as a non-psychoactive component is CBD. (Abazia 4)

Those who are against medical cannabis may mainly support their claims from the known information of CBD or the psychoactive component within the plant, but when talking about natural CBD and THC receptors within our bodies and the positive effects which THC and CB bring, it becomes prominent that they may become oblivious to the information.

At the center of this discussion medical marijuana is looked at in two different lights, both positive and negative. But when truly understanding the way in which cannabis has been socially viewed in the past, as well as the positive effects from the chemical components within, the information may speak for itself. The idea of legislations being halted for medical cannabis

instead of further developing sections and laws for only the positive components and ultimately a form of medication, shows that there may be corruption within the systems of US government that may relate to secondary parties such as pharmaceutical companies, and research developers opposed to medical cannabis . Thus the conclusion that the public may lead to is that the world is filled with corruption that may be swayed by personal gains, in this case the medical cannabis legislations and the politics within.

## Work Cited

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