

Greetings! We're sending you this card as the first in a series addressing myths about marijuana. We at Drug Policy Education Group hope you'll take a few moments to consider this information. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational Arkansas organization founded in 1999 to pursue the goal of reducing the harm to our people, families, and communities caused by drugs and failed drug policies. Feel free to contact us at dpeg@mindspring.com or visit our website at www.dpeg.org

Myth: Reducing penalties for marijuana offenses sends the wrong message to our children.

Fact: Marijuana prohibition has tempted over 900,000 teens to become sellers of marijuana.¹ This has made illegal marijuana more available to the young than beer.² Marijuana has been used by well over half of the young by the time they reach age 21.³ Regulated trade for marijuana would reduce youth access to this intoxicant, as it does for alcoholic beverages, while increasing tax revenues that can support schools, health care and other programs that benefit youth.

1. "Alcohol Use and Delinquent Behaviors among Youths," April 2005, SAMHSA, USDHHS.

2. QEV Analytics, "National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse III: Teens and Parents (New York, NY: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, August 2003), p 23

3. Office of National Drug Control Policy: 2000 Annual Report p 97