

Dear Bill:

Re: legalizing pot.

I am a licensed social worker in both SC and NY, working at a state technical college in SC.

People who argue that pot is safe, not a gateway drug, etc., are simply misrepresenting the truth. I have worked with many students who are depressed, anxious, etc., and have used pot to self-medicate. Many realize that this is not helping them to cope and that it is actually exacerbating their problems, not to mention that it is illegal, which poses even more issues.

Additionally, all of them that have progressed on to the "hard" drugs have used pot first.

They simply do not understand that they do not need drugs and alcohol to have a pleasant social experience. The country is sending a dangerous message to our youth, the future leaders of America.

All the best,

Elisa in SC

Bennett, William J.; White, Robert A. (2015-02-03). *Going to Pot: Why the Rush to Legalize Marijuana Is Harming America* (pp. 90-91). Center Street. Kindle Edition.