

Jan 25, 2023 **Testimony from Linda Stanton, private citizen:**

Why legalize another dangerous drug when we have such an addiction problem already? Opioids like: Fentanyl, Heroin etc. are already a huge problem.

Who will win with legalization?

1. Cannabis and Marijuana stocks you can buy on the stock exchange. I hear it's the next Trillion-dollar industry.
2. Who else? The big pot growers who can afford the license and regulatory fees plus the business taxes that already exist.
3. Illegal drug dealers will win big. There is already a well-established illicit market. This will only cause it to grow.
4. Power brokers' win.

There is an adage: if you want LESS of something, tax it. If you more of something don't tax it.

So, if you tax legal pot businesses you will get less legal business. Taxing includes ALL regulations.

If you won't or can't tax the illegal market, you will get more of it.

People will look for the lowest prices like after Thanksgiving sales.

To get less of the ILLEGAL market it must be taxed. How? Law enforcement will act like tax. Without policing, this law will only succeed in creating and spreading more misery all over society AND it will HURT poor, minority neighborhoods the most. As example see what has happened in NYC without enforcement: Unlicensed pot shops have popped up all over.

Commercialization would create the next Big Tobacco ... BIG POT that would depend on hooking users with an addictive product.

If you really want to help poor communities that are preyed upon by drug dealers and crime then take a good, honest look at what is missing and fix that instead.

Thank you.