

“JOIE! Stop talking so much!” I heard it time and time again growing up, and eventually, like a dog who begins to believe their name is “no”, I started to wonder if maybe I should dial it back. My daddy told me to ALWAYS respectfully question authority. Coming from the mouth of a first responder as well as community authority figure in one of the roughest cities in America, why would I not take that advice? So, I kept on questioning everything with a childish curiosity while avoiding skepticism and striving to stay free of judgement.

By the time I got to high school, I began to ponder, “If weed is so bad like they keep telling us, and the people who smoke it are supposed to be so terrible, then why are the kids who smoke weed so genuinely nice to me all the time?”. Rather paradoxical for a teen to watch the teachers who told her not to be judgemental of her peers judging them so harshly just because of what they choose to put in their bodies.

Back then, we lived in a world where being open about your cannabis use could cost you your freedom, a world that saw the arrest of 70 non-violent citizens every single hour of every single day for “drug violations” according to the statistics released in 2002.

We now live in a world where 2/3 of the country has enacted some type of law allowing legal access to cannabis for its citizens assuring them that they are now safe to consume without the threat of violence or imprisonment. If that really be the case than why has the statistic of 70 non-violent drug arrests every hour increased to 75 an hour according to the 2016 reports?

With statistics like these it's rather evident that we are ALL soldiers in this drug war one way or another. Which side are you on? The side of judgement and unnecessary violence, or the side of FREEDOM and inclusion? Is judging a human being over the things they consume rather than their character really indicative of the “free society” we're told we live in?

Aristotle said, “Evil brings men together. Common danger unites even the bitterest enemies.” and it would appear that society is now marinating in the residual effects of the evil and divisive drug laws enacted generations ago. Aristotle ended that statement with instruction and insight, “Men acquire a particular quality by acting a particular way; we are what we repeatedly do.” it's time for society to break free of it's bad habits and stand up to those who have been enslaving us for so long.

Over generations the two party system has puppeted and maniacally manipulated it's citizens by means of these archaic drug laws. Any seated president to date could have signed the executive order releasing the citizens from the tyranny of prohibition yet none of them have stepped forward to protect us. Instead they continue to cage us at a rate of over 1,800 people every day. That in and of itself is a greater crime to humanity than the non-violent use of any substance could ever be and that is something that Adam Kokesh has vowed to change.

It's for this reason that I fully endorse Mr. Kokesh in his journey to become the Libertarian Presidential nominee for 2020 and I encourage others who have been living under the tyranny of prohibition to proudly do the same. It's time for a change, It's time we enlist a leader who wants to inspire the masses instead of control them. It's time to resist the division of the two party system by voting on the character and ideals of the individual rather than their party affiliation. A vote for Kokesh is a vote for a freer and more productive America where we will no longer be discriminated against for what we choose to responsibly put in our bodies.

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