**Decriminalization and Treatment Counterplan**

**Affirmative**

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### Glossary

Drug Cartel- organizations that aim to control and monitor drug trafficking

DTOs- Drug Trafficking Organizations

Peña Nieto- President of Mexico

### Turn: Decriminalization Increases Violence – Gangs Fight Over Shrinking Illegal Market

#### [ ]Decriminalization fails- Gangs would still sell drugs illegally and would become more violent in an attempt to control their shrinking market-share.

Felbab-Brown, senior fellow in the Foreign Policy program at Brookings, 2012

(Vanda, “Organized Criminals Won't Fade Away” August 2012 The World Today Magazine http://www.brookings.edu/research/articles/2012/08/drugs-crime-felbabbrown)

Although frequently portrayed as an effective solution to the problem of organized crime, mere legalization of illicit economies, particularly of drugs, is no panacea.¶ Proponents of legalization as a mechanism to reduce organized crime make at least two arguments: it will severely deprive organized crime groups of resources. It will also free law enforcement agencies to concentrate on other types of crime. A country may have good reasons to want to legalize the use and even production of some addictive substances and ride out the consequences of greater use. Such reasons could include providing better health care to users, reducing the number of users in prison, and perhaps even generating greater revenues and giving jobs to the poor. Yet without robust state presence and effective law enforcement, both often elusive in parts of the world such as Latin America or Africa, there can be little assurance that organized crime groups would be excluded from the legal drug trade. In fact, they may have numerous advantages over legal companies and manage to hold on to the trade, perhaps even resorting to violence to do so. Nor does mere legalization mean that the state will suddenly become robust and effective. Persistent deficiencies in the state explain why there is so much illegal logging alongside legal logging, for example, or why smuggling in legal goods take place.¶ Organized crime groups who stand to be displaced from the drug trade by legalization can hardly be expected to take the change lying down. Rather, they may intensify their violent power struggles over remaining illegal economies, such as the smuggling of other contraband or migrants, prostitution, extortion, and kidnapping. To mitigate their financial losses, they may also seek to take over the black economy, which operates outside the tax system. If they succeed in organizing street life in this informal sector, their political power over society will be greater than ever.¶ Nor does legalization imply that police would be freed up to focus on other issues or become less corrupt: The state may have to devote more resources to regulating the legal economy.¶ Additionally, a grey market in drugs would probably emerge. If drugs became legal, the state would want to tax them – to generate revenues and to discourage greater use. The higher the tax, the greater the opportunity for organized crime to undercut the state by charging less. Organized crime groups could set up their own fields with smaller taxation, snatch the market and the profits, and the state would be back to combating them and eradicating their fields. Such grey markets exist alongside a host of legal economies, from cigarettes to stolen cars.

### Turn: Decriminalization Increases Violence – Gangs Fight Over Shrinking Illegal Market

**[ ]**

[ ] A Shrinking Demand for Drugs Would Intensify Drug-related Violence

Felbab-Brown, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institue, 2010

(Vanda, Why Legalization in Mexico is Not a Panacea for Reducing Violence and Suppressing Organized Crime, September 23, 2010, http://www.brookings.edu/research/opinions/2010/09/23-mexico-marijuana-legalization-felbabbrown?rssid=mexico&utm\_source=feedburner&utm\_medium=feed&utm\_campaign=Feed%3a%2bBrookingsRSS%2ftopics%2fmexico%2b(Brookings%3a%2bTopics%2b-%2bMexico)

But, even if legalization did displace the DTOs from the marijuana production and distribution market in Mexico, they can hardly be expected to take such a change lying down. Rather, they may intensify the violent power struggle over remaining hard-drug smuggling and distribution. (Notably, the shrinkage of the U.S. cocaine market is one of the factors that precipitated the current DTO wars.) Worse yet, the DTOs could intensify their effort to take over other illegal economies in Mexico, such as the smuggling of migrants and other illegal commodities, prostitution, extortion, and kidnapping, and also over Mexico’s informal economy – trying to franchise who sells tortillas, jewelry, clothes on the zócalo -- to mitigate their financial losses. They are already doing so. If they succeed in franchising the informal economy and organizing public spaces and street life in the informal sector (40% of Mexico’s economy), their political power over society will be greater than ever.

### No Solvency: Decriminalization Won’t Kill Cartels – Diverse Business Ventures

**[ ]**

[ ] Drug cartels won’t be harmed by Decriminalization of marijuana

Longmire, a former officer and investigative special agent in the Air Force, 2011

(Sylvia, Legalization Won’t Kill the Cartels, June 18, http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/19/opinion/19longmire.html?\_r=1)

Unfortunately, it’s not that easy.Marijuana legalization has many merits, but itwould do little to hinder the long-term economics of the cartels — and the violent toll they take on Mexican society.¶ For one thing, if marijuana makes up 60 percent of the cartels’ profits, that still leaves another 40 percent, which includes the sale of methamphetamine, cocaine, and brown-powder and black-tar heroin. If marijuana were legalized, the cartels would still make huge profits from the sale of these other drugs.¶ Plus, there’s no reason the cartels couldn’t enter the legal market for the sale of marijuana, as organized crime groups did in the United States after the repeal of Prohibition.¶ Still, legalization would deliver a significant short-term hit to the cartels — if drug trafficking were the only activity they were engaged in. But cartels derive a growing slice of their income from other illegal activities. Some experts on organized crime in Latin America, like Edgardo Buscaglia, say that cartels earn just half their income from drugs.¶ Indeed, in recent years cartels have used an extensive portfolio of rackets and scams to diversify their income. For example, they used to kidnap rivals, informants and incompetent subordinates to punish, exact revenge or send a message. Now that they have seen that people are willing to pay heavy ransoms, kidnapping has become their second-most-lucrative venture, with the targets ranging from businessmen to migrants.¶ Another new source of cartel revenue is oil theft, long a problem for the Mexican government. The national oil company, Pemex, loses hundreds of millions of dollars’ worth of petroleum every year to bandits and criminal gangs who tap into pipelines and siphon it off. Now the cartels are getting involved in this business, working with associates north of the border to sell the oil to American companies at huge markups.

### No Solvency: Decriminalizing Marijuana Not Enough

**[ ]**

[ ] Decriminalizing marijuana fails – it would take the legalization of all drugs to stop the drug cartels

Caulkins and Lee, Carnegie Mellon University, 2012

(Jonathan P. Caulkins Michael Lee, Legalizing Drugs in the US: A Solution to Mexico’s Problems for Which Mexico Should Not Wait, http://www.ycsg.yale.edu/center/forms/legalizing-drugs-us108-124.pdf)

The political landscape in the US is not amenable to drug legalization, with the exception of marijuana. To achieve a noticeable decrease in Mexican violence, legalizing marijuana would not be enough. The US would have to legalize hard drugs as well. However, as Keith Humphreys notes (2011; elsewhere in this volume), the probability of legalizing hard drugs in the US is essentially zero. Congress and the American people simply don’t want it. The body of this paper explains why that reticence can be grounded in a perfectly rational aversion to irreversible risky gambles, not necessarily from ignorance or lack of imagination.

### No Solvency: Decriminalization Won’t be Modeled

#### [ ] Decriminalization won’t be modeled – Mexico will maintain it’s police and military crackdown.

Kozloff, PhD in Latin American History from Oxford, 2013

(Nikolas, “How the Latin American Drug War Will End,” *TruthOut*, Feb 12, Online: <http://truth-out.org/buzzflash/commentary/item/17800-how-the-latin-american-drug-war-will-end>)

Despite this political pressure in both the U.S. and Mexico, the establishment has waffled on marijuana. Earlier this summer, Peña Nieto said that he would welcome a debate on drug legalization in Mexico. However, the President has continued to deploy the military on to the streets while battling the cartels. Nieto furthermore has avoided holding major press conferences about the drug war, hoping that perhaps he can buy time or at least distract the public. Over at The Nation magazine, Tom Hayden reports that the U.S. pressured Nieto to continue a military policy prior to the election. Fundamentally, writes alternet columnist Phillip Smith, “neither incoming Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto nor the Obama administration are showing many signs they are willing to take the bold, decisive actions -- like ending drug prohibition -- that many serious observers on all sides of the spectrum say will be necessary to tame the cartels.” Faced with such inertia at the top, legalization advocates may face a long slog ahead. Moreover, as they cultivate unusual cross-border alliances, activists may confront a significant obstacle in the counter-narcotics establishment. If the ban on marijuana is lifted, then certain agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Administration would lose a lot of their budget and overall legitimacy. Psychologically, it may be difficult for the counter-narcotics apparatus to admit defeat after investing literally billions of dollars repressing the marijuana trade as well as other drugs.