



Paul Auchterlonie is an addiction expert.

Paul, you deal with addicts on a regular basis. What are your thoughts with the legalization of marijuana and whether or not it could be a gateway.



As far as a gateway theory, 18% of those admitted in residential treatment for addiction is for marijuana, behind alcohol and opioids. The old myth of people don't go to rehab for weed is not actually accurate.

I'd like to introduce this concept that came out in the Surgeon General's Report just this week.

Most of the marijuana use takes place between 15 years of age and 25 years of age. During that same time, what's happening. Our prefrontal cortex is still developing. Our brain, the brain that regulates emotion and judgement and decision making and time management and those sorts of things. It's an interesting correlation to bring into the discussion on gateway coupled with the fact that the potency of marijuana is much higher than it used to be.

The summary of my argument is adolescents think it's safer and they use it earlier, and that it's more okay to use it. I would appreciate that the other side of the aisle would at least focus on the harmful effects that it can have.



It's a dream killer. It's a goal-attainer killer. There's a reason why you can't manage your time and complete tasks.