

Decriminalization of drugs does nothing to deter people from experimenting with drugs, especially young people who oftentimes have no perception of consequences. Cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine are nearly impossible for the average user to get off of. I have seen this from the time I was in Vietnam, times with fellow workers, and then worst of all with my family members, once tempted, trapped with no way out.

I have a son and a grandson who are living on the street because of street drugs. I have a great-grandson who is now working to stay clean and get his life back together. He has lost his right to see his daughter because of the drugs; trust is broken.

We have to wonder if even with all the help, with all the rehab, and all the years lost to drugs, will they ever recover. I can't begin to count the cost to our family in dollars, in relationships and heartaches, because of the easy access to and minimal consequences of drugs. It is heartbreaking, to the mothers, to the children, and the spouses, especially to the mothers. Spouses give up, children block memories or take the same path, and mothers continue to love through the pain.

If the consequences had been greater maybe, just maybe they would not have gone there. What if, What if. These kids, now in their 20s, 30s, and 50s, without the intervention from heaven, could be lost to society and our family.

But there is a fresh batch of young people every year. You have the chance to change that reality by having greater consequences for illegal drug use. Give law enforcement the tools they need. Please, please, do it. Do it for the mothers.

Larry D Reeves

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These are my sentiments and may not represent the DCRCC.