

The International Ladies of the Night:

I represent The International Ladies of the Night who support legal prostitution. We support legal prostitution to help stop sexually transmitted diseases, generate money for the state of Montana, and decrease crime.

Currently in the U.S.A., Nevada is the only state to legalize prostitution. In Nevada, the legal prostitutes have to have weekly HIV/AIDS checks. There are also laws to protect the prostitutes and clients such as the Mandatory Condom Law. Crime has dropped, and there are zoning areas set up so brothels can not be in residential areas.

On the other hand the government is hypocritical by giving into the religious dogma about prostitution when the separation of church and state is firmly in place. The government says that prostitution is demeaning to women, so they take them to jail for merely selling their bodies for money, which is even more demeaning by putting them in jail.

Some of the benefits of legalizing prostitution for society are

- ❖ Licensed Prostitutes must be 21 years of age (depending on the county)
- ❖ State law requires registered brothels to be checked weekly for sexually transmitted diseases and monthly for HIV/AIDS, and brothel owners will be held responsible if a client becomes infected the prostitute will no longer have her license. **Since 1986 when mandatory testing began, not a single brothel prostitute has been tested positive for HIV.** There is also a mandatory condom law which was passed in 1988.
- ❖ Legal brothels have zoning areas set up, away from residential areas and areas that could be negatively (socially and financially) affected by the brothel.
- ❖ The United States government could tax legal brothels to generate income; it would also save money in the sense that law enforcement would not be needed to stop the illegal prostitution.
- ❖ Crime would be decreased just by taking away the illegal aspect of prostitution, plus pimps would not exist.

As shown by the entries above, the benefits of prostitution could greatly increase the government's money, and could therefore be used in better areas. The legalization of prostitution is safer than illegal prostitution, not only in the crime aspect but in the health aspect.

I will support legislation that makes prostitution legal under the proper regulations.

This document is in compliance with the Montana YMCA Youth Legislature Lobbyist Disclosure Policy.

