



# ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

**May 22, 2014**

## **Marijuana Action Alert**



**Call your Senator to Vote NO on SB 2636**

**Expansion of Medical Marijuana for Children under 18 - Not just those with seizures or epilepsy!**

Rep Lou Lang amended SB 2636 to allow the Department of Public Health to adopt rules for children **under 18 to become a registered medical marijuana patient with the consent of a parent or legal guardian for 34 medical conditions, not just seizures.** Why is there not a statement from a physician? **Minors are eligible for a Colorado medical marijuana card if two physicians sign off on it.**

As one father has stated, **"There is no prescribed solution yet. Even for the kids having a lot of success, they are all on different stuff."** Some parents had the marijuana they purchased for their children at dispensaries tested to make sure it did not contain pesticide, but individual testing will no longer be available. **Read the article**

SB 2636 follows the example of Colorado in allowing **those under 18 to have only medical cannabis infused products.** **Colorado signed a law on Wednesday** to tighten controls on edible and concentrated forms of marijuana, as concerns mounted about safety issues after two deaths possibly linked to the ingestion of pot-infused goodies. **Read the article**

**Greater access to edible marijuana leads to an increase of children admitted**

**to hospitals. [Read the article](#)**

The Journal of the American Medical Association published an article about the "Problems with the Medicalization of Marijuana". The doctors note, "**This is especially problematic given that many of the negative effects of marijuana are most pronounced in adolescents.**" [Read the article](#)

Watch this compelling story from a mother whose toddler found and ate marijuana infused candy: [Click to watch the video](#)

While we empathize with parents who are caring for sick children, **[medical marijuana has not been reviewed and approved by the Food and Drug Administration](#)**. According to Kevin Gray, M.D., co-chair of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry's Substance Abuse Committee, "Often lost in the discussion on marijuana are the concerning **potential implications of policy changes on children and adolescents**, who are particularly vulnerable to marijuana's adverse effects. **Significant early use is associated with increased incidence and worsened course of psychotic, mood, anxiety, and substance use disorders that can lead to long-term problems across the lifespan.** [Click to read the article](#)

**FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION**

Contact your State Senator ([click for a list of State Senators](#) ) and ask him/her to **Vote No on SB 2636.**

Share this Alert with your faith community and ask them to PRAY and CALL.

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