



**August 26, 2014**

## **Medical Marijuana Action Alert**



### **Medical Marijuana is moving quickly**

The new medical marijuana program in Illinois is now looking for health professionals and patients to serve on an advisory board.

Only patients with certain medical problems can apply for ID cards to use medical marijuana. But the new law allows the public to petition to add medical conditions to the list. The board will review the petitions, hold public hearings and make a written report based on experience and evidence-based medical research. **[Read the article by Bill Wheelhouse, WUIS.org, August 26, 2014](#)**

Dispensary and cultivation center applications will be available online this week and accepted on September 8 through September 22. **[Click here to view the State's website](#)**

#### **Could legalization of marijuana be in the works for the Veto Session?**

**Illinois Review reported** ([Read the Illinois Review article](#)) State Rep. Lou Lang (D-Chicago) proudly won medical marijuana legalization for adults and minors this Illinois General Assembly session. Now he's hinting that he'll be ratcheting up an effort to follow Colorado and legalize recreational cannabis, possibly as soon as the fall veto session.

However, Illinois lawmakers considering hoisting the white flag on the drug war might want to read a new report ([Click here to read the full report](#)) by the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area entitled "The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact."

1. The majority of DUI drug arrests involve marijuana and 25 to 40 percent were marijuana alone.
2. In 2012, 10.47 percent of Colorado youth ages 12 to 17 were considered current marijuana users compared to 7.55 percent nationally. Colorado ranked fourth in the nation, and was 39 percent higher than the national average.
3. Drug-related student suspensions/expulsions increased 32 percent from school years 2008-09 through 2012-13, the vast majority were for marijuana violations.
4. In 2012, 26.81 percent of college age students were considered current marijuana users compared to 18.89 percent nationally, which ranks Colorado third in the nation and 42 percent above the national average.
5. In 2013, 48.4 percent of Denver adult arrestees tested positive for marijuana, which is a 16

percent increase from 2008.

6. From 2011 through 2013 there was a 57 percent increase in marijuana-related emergency room visits, from 8,198 to 12,888.
7. Hospitalizations related to marijuana have increased 82 percent since 2008 (4,441) to 2013 (8,070).

## FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

Contact your State Representative ([click here for a list of State Representatives](#)) and State Senator ([click for a list of State Senators](#)) and ask them to OPPOSE the legalization of marijuana.

Share this information with your Aldermen and Village Trustees and let them know about the dangers of marijuana and the impact on the community.

PRAY and share with your faith community.

Forward to 10 others.

Click here to donate to Illinois Churches in Action.

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