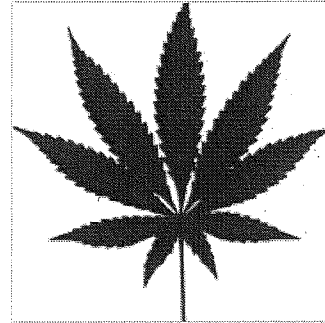


# ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

## February 20, 2015

### Marijuana Action Alert



#### Some predict recreational marijuana coming soon

The Medical Marijuana licenses just issued a few weeks ago, and the program has not started. Yet some are predicting that recreational marijuana will be coming soon.

Kathie Kane-Willis, director of the Illinois Consortium on Drug Policy, which helped shape the state's medical marijuana law, thinks recreational pot could be legal in Illinois in 3 to 7 years. [Read more](#)

#### Two bills have been introduced to decriminalize marijuana.

Currently marijuana is illegal to possess in Illinois until the medical marijuana program begins and only for those who are issued a medical marijuana card.

**HB 218** treats the possession of marijuana (cannabis) like a speeding ticket, with a fine of \$100. **HB 218** reduces the penalties for knowingly possessing 30 grams (75 joints) of marijuana to not more than 500 grams (1,250 joints). More people will use and sell marijuana if the penalties for 30 to 500 grams are reduced to a misdemeanor.

**HB 753 reduces the penalties** for possession of marijuana and allows people 21 and older to knowingly possess up to 30 grams (75 joints) of cannabis. **HB 753 also allows people to grow and possess 5 marijuana plants.**

**Illinois Partners Providing Marijuana Education details the amount of marijuana produced per plant:** In an outdoor grow operation, approximately 448 grams per plant or 1 pound (16 ounces), and in an indoor grow operation approximately ½ pound (8 ounces) or 224 grams. The plants grown indoors are smaller than those grown outdoors, but they produce a higher potency THC. *Sources: University of Mississippi study, June*

1992. Mahmoud A. ElSohly, Ph.D., Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Marijuana Project at the National Center for Natural Products Research, School of Pharmacy, University of Mississippi, March 2014

## Expansion of Medical Marijuana

The medical cannabis pilot program is not yet operational, yet Senate Bill 33 seeks to expand medical marijuana use to treat Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). There are measures in place within the law for the Department of Public Health to expand the list of Debilitating Medical Conditions.

New research shows that marijuana may worsen the symptoms for post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and increase violent behavior, as reported in *Medscape.com*.

At the annual meeting of the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, lead author Samuel T. Wilkinson, MD, from Yale University School of Medicine, told conference delegates that in this study, they found that marijuana is not associated with improvement in PTSD and that initiating marijuana was associated with worsening outcomes in a number of measures. [Read more](#)

A new [study](#) found that cannabis use triples the risk of psychosis and that using high potency strains are responsible for 24 per cent of new cases of psychotic mental illness. [Read more](#)

## School drug incidents raise questions on Colo. pot policy

Hundreds of Colorado's middle-school students got caught with drugs at school last year, setting a decade-high record while raising questions about the impact of the state's legal marijuana industry.

... "I would say that at any given time, any day of the week, there are probably about 10% of kids in the high school that are under the influence of something," said school resource officer Susan Condrey of the Aurora Police Department.

The 951 middle-school drug violations across Colorado was the highest tally in a decade. School officials acknowledge marijuana has long been a problem, legal or not, but say the greater availability and societal acceptance appears to be prompting more kids to try it. [USA Today](#)

## FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

**Contact** your [State Representative](#) and ask him/her to **oppose HB 218, HB 753** to decriminalize and legalize marijuana.

**Contact** your [State Senator](#) and ask him/her to **oppose SB 33** and all other bills to expand medical marijuana and/or decriminalize marijuana.

**Contact** [Governor Rauner](#) or call 800-642-3112 to tell him that legalizing marijuana will not solve the budget problem in Illinois. Ask the governor to OPPOSE all expansion of medical marijuana and the decriminalization/legalization of marijuana.