



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

April 8, 2015

Marijuana Action Alert



Illinois approves 2 downstate medical marijuana dispensaries

The State issued licenses for medical marijuana dispensaries in Springfield and Collinsville but denied an application in Chicago's Hyde Park.

One company that gained approval is co-owned by Effingham attorney Matthew Hortenstine, who said they now have new partners. The lobbyist for HealthCentral was Jack Lavin, Quinn's former chief of staff. But Lavin's contract with HealthCentral expired in January. HealthCentral also parted ways with former co-owner Ben Burkhardt, who faced legal difficulties with a medical marijuana business he co-owned in Colorado, including a lawsuit claiming the company gave out marijuana edibles that got those who ate it high, despite claims it would not do so. Read more **Note:** Matthew Hortenstine is also the President/CEO/Manager of Lucy's Place, which operates 24 video gambling parlors in southern and central Illinois.

Expanded disease list being considered for medical marijuana program

Illinois residents have petitioned the state to add more than 20 medical conditions to the medical marijuana program, including anxiety, migraines, insomnia and post-traumatic stress disorder.

... Illinois law lists dozens of diseases, including cancer, multiple sclerosis and AIDS, that can qualify a patient for use with a doctor's recommendation and a state ID card, but it is more restrictive than in other states. ***The marijuana industry wants a broader list to create a bigger market in Illinois.***

The board will be "cautious and conservative" as it considers research, the severity of the illnesses, other remedies available and what other states have done, said Dr. Leslie Mendoza Temple, a suburban Chicago doctor and the board's chair. She said "**Where science is lacking we must factor in our compassion more heavily.**" Read more

Why this mom thinks marijuana edibles killed her son

Luke Goodman, 22, shot himself at a ski resort in Colorado. His mother knew he had smoked marijuana before, but he had never had any marijuana edibles. On the day of the shooting, he ate 5 pieces of marijuana candy.

Edibles present unusual issues. "What we're seeing with edibles is that the effect is delayed for approximately 30 minutes, depending on the person," Al Bronstein, a physician and medical director of the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center, recently told ABC News. **"People get impatient for the effect and will take more, and then the symptoms are more pronounced than what they were expecting."** [Read more:](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

Contact your [State Representative](#) and ask him/her to **Vote NO on HB 218 and HB 2750**, which decriminalizes marijuana and opens the door to full legalization of the drug.

Contact your [State Senator](#) and ask him/her to **oppose SB 33** to expand medical marijuana through the Legislature rather than the process established in the pilot program.

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