



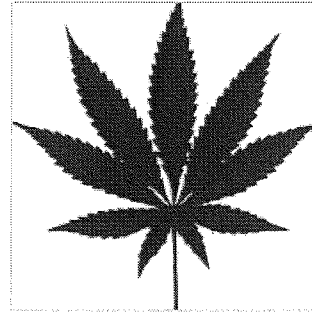
# ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

**May 18, 2015**

## **Marijuana Action Alert**

**Decriminalizing marijuana will increase use, abuse, and costs. Call your Senator to Vote NO on HB 218**



Legislators are being led to believe that decriminalizing/legalizing marijuana will save taxpayers money. A news study has shown the opposite is true - more damage is done by LEGAL drugs. If the State legalizes marijuana, more people will use the drug and more will become addicted.

### **First Worldwide Addiction Stats Released**

**"The most striking thing to emerge is how much more damage is done to society by legal drugs than illegal ones."** Robert West, MD, an author of the report and editor-in-chief of *Addiction*, from University College London, in the United Kingdom, said in a statement.

Tobacco and alcohol use are by far the most prevalent addictive behaviors and cause the large majority of harm, according to the results of the first compilation of addictions around the globe.

**"Addictive behaviours are among the greatest scourges on humankind,"** write Linda R. Gowing, MD, from the School of Medical Sciences, University of Adelaide, Australia, and colleagues in *Addiction*.

The study findings include the following:

- 5% of the world's adult population (240 million people; 8% of men, 1.5% of women) have alcohol use disorder, resulting in some 257 disability-adjusted life years lost per 100,000 population.
- 22.5% of adults (1 billion people; 32% of men, 7% of women) smoke tobacco, with an estimated 11% of deaths in men and 6% of deaths in women attributed to its use annually each year.

- 3.5% of the world smoke cannabis.
- <1% of the world use other "unsanctioned" psychoactive drugs.
- 0.3% of the world (15 million people) inject drugs.

Read more: <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/844812>

## FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

**Contact** your State Senator and ask him/her to **Vote NO on HB 218** to decriminalize marijuana, the precursor to full legalization of marijuana.

**PRAY and share this Alert** with your faith community.

**Forward** to 10 others.

Click here to donate to Illinois Churches in Action.

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