



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

June 3, 2015

ACT NOW!
Ask Gov. to VETO Marijuana Bills



HB 218 would decriminalize marijuana - lead to full legalization in Illinois

ASK THE GOVERNOR TO VETO: HB 218 treats the possession of 15 grams of marijuana (37 "joints") like a speeding ticket. The person receives a Uniform Cannabis Citation, pays a fine of \$55 to \$125 and pleads guilty. There is no age limit. Anyone middle school or high school age and up could possess marijuana. More people will use and deliver marijuana if the penalties are reduced.

ASK THE GOVERNOR TO VETO: HB 3215 would change the state's zero-tolerance law for driving with marijuana in one's system. Marijuana remains in the body much longer than alcohol. Within 3 hours of consuming marijuana, drivers are nearly twice as likely to cause a crash, than those who are not under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. HB 3215 would allow people to drive with up to 15 ngs of THC per ml of blood. (NOTE: The per se limits in Colorado, Washington, and Montana are 5ng/ml, Nevada and Ohio are 2ng/ml, Pennsylvania is 1ng/ml.)

A major review in the scientific journal *Addiction* tells of the adverse health effects of cannabis use on mental and physical health.

- One in 10 regular marijuana users will develop dependence, and the rate increases to 1 in 6 for those who begin using the drug during adolescence.
- Regular marijuana use doubles the risk of experiencing psychotic symptoms and disorders, especially if they have a personal or family history of psychotic disorders and begin using during their mid-teens.

School officials say while marijuana use has long been a problem, more students are trying it now that it is more easily available and socially accepted.

The Governor opposes extending the medical marijuana pilot program (HB 3299) and says he will review all legislation that comes to his desk.

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

Contact the Governor and ask him to **VETO HB 218 and HB 3215** to decriminalize marijuana and to **VETO HB 3299**, which expands marijuana as medicine.

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

Forward to 10 others.

Click here to donate to Illinois Churches in Action.

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