

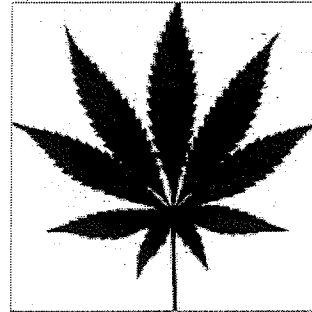


ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

August 4, 2015

Marijuana Action Alert



Call the Gov. to VETO Marijuana bills

Three marijuana bills have been sent to the governor. The Governor must sign or veto the bills by August 14 or August 18.

Calls are needed NOW to ask the Governor to Veto HB 218, HB 3299, and SB 33.

HB 218 is precursor to full legalization of marijuana, and treats the possession of 15 grams of marijuana (37 joints) like a speeding ticket, with a fine of \$50 to \$125. **There is no age limit.** Anyone middle school or high school age and up could possess marijuana.

HB 218 would establish Illinois with the nation's highest pot-impaired driving threshold of 15 nanograms per milliliter of whole blood. The level in Colorado, Washington, and Montana are 5ng/ml, Nevada and Ohio are 2ng/ml, and Pennsylvania is 1ng/ml.

New research by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) shows low levels of marijuana cause impaired driving similar to those with .08 BAC for DUI of 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 drugs.

HB 3299 extends the medical marijuana pilot program, which is not set to end until 2017. Scientists have no solid answer as to whether marijuana is really an effective drug.

A new lobbyist group was formed to push for policies in Springfield favorable to the medical marijuana industry with a well-connected former Illinois Department of Agriculture employee. Extending the program's end date, or achieving its permanence, is one of the group's most urgent objectives.