



February 9, 2015

Marijuana Action Alert

HB 4357 to reduce penalties for possession of marijuana



HB 4357 will be heard in the House Restorative Justice Committee on February 10th

- HB 4357 treats the possession of marijuana (cannabis) like a speeding ticket. The person receives a uniform citation, pays a small fine and pleads guilty. More people will use and deliver marijuana if the penalties are reduced.
- HB 4357 reduces the penalty from a Class 4 felony to a misdemeanor for possession of 10 grams of cannabis, (approximately 24 "joints"), with a fine of \$100 to \$200. There is no age limit. Anyone middle school or high school age and up could possess marijuana.
- Anyone receiving a marijuana ticket would have their records automatically expunged every January 1 and July 1. There is little deterrent for young people not to use the drug when the fine for possession is so small and the tickets are expunged from the records.
- HB 4357 attempts to establish a per se level of THC where driving impairment is determined, but there is NO research substantiating ANY per se level for driving impairment (Educating Voices, Inc.)
- HB 4357 provides that if a person was convicted of a felony under the Cannabis Control Act or a similar provision of a local ordinance or of a law of another jurisdiction, and the action warranting that felony is no longer

considered a felony after the effective date of this law, that person shall be eligible to receive a registry identification card.

- **Currently law makes it illegal to possess marijuana unless someone has a medical marijuana card. HB 4357 will make marijuana more available on the streets of Illinois.**

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

Contact your State Representative and ask him/her to **oppose HB 4357**.

PRAY and share this Alert with your faith community.

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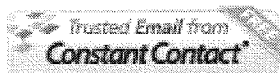
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