



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

March 10, 2015

Marijuana Action Alert

**Contact your State Senator -
Vote NO to SB 2228**



Current law makes it illegal to possess marijuana unless someone has a medical marijuana card. SB 2228 treats the possession of 10 grams of marijuana, (approximately 25 "joints"), like a speeding ticket. The person receives a citation, pays a fine of \$100 to \$200 and pleads guilty. **There is no age limit-- 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. **More people will use and deliver marijuana if the penalties are reduced.**

Currently in Illinois, a motorist can be held criminally responsible in a severe or fatal crash if they have any amount of an illegal drug in their system. This will change if SB 2228 becomes law. Testing drivers for evidence of marijuana use is difficult. A lab test would find only a trace amount of THC in the blood of occasional marijuana users after a few hours.

In 2014, about 13% of the driving fatalities in Illinois involved marijuana high drivers, resulting in the death of more than 100 persons. With full implementation of the Medical Marijuana program, it is expected that the **percentages will rise to 15.6% and increase the yearly number to about 133 fatalities**, according to a new report, [*The Involvement of Marijuana Drivers in*](#)

[Illinois Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes](#). About 56% of the marijuana drivers were speeding, and 40% were also DUI.

A woman serving a seven-year prison term for a crash that killed two people and paralyzed another had marijuana in her system. She was recently re-sentenced to probation because it was later ruled she was not impaired despite having smoked marijuana prior to the accident. [Read more](#).

SB 2228 could be called for a vote in the full Senate next week.

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

Contact your [State Senator](#) and ask him/her to VOTE NO on **SB 2228** to safeguard the highways and keep marijuana from being more available to teens in Illinois.

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

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