



March 28, 2017

Marijuana Action Alert

Legalization of Marijuana HB 2353 & SB 316



Last year, the Legislature passed a law to decriminalize 10 grams of marijuana. Now Legislators Rep. Kelly Cassidy and Sen. Heather Steans **introduced bills for full legalization of marijuana for anyone 21 and older.** Both bills would allow people to grow marijuana in their homes or on property they own. **HB 2353 and SB 316 legalize the sale and use of marijuana "accessories and allows the possession limit of 28 grams for state residents.**
[Read more](#)

Illinois considers legalizing marijuana for a fiscal boost

Marijuana advocates are trying to lay the groundwork for Illinois to become the first state in the Midwest and the ninth nationwide to legalize recreational pot, arguing the move will help solve the state's notorious budget crisis. [Read more](#)

Poll on Legalizing Marijuana

This [poll](#) asks if people support decriminalize, then ask if they would support the legalization of marijuana if it were taxed or regulated like alcohol. **Alcohol causes more problems than ALL illegal drugs combined! The taxes collected on alcohol do not begin to pay for the costs.**

The impact of marijuana legalization in Colorado

- **Marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 48 percent** in the three-year average (2013-2015) since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana
- **Colorado youth ranked #1 in the nation** for past month marijuana use in 2013/2014, up from #4 in 2011/2012 and #14 in 2005/2006.

- **Colorado Emergency Department visits** per year **related to marijuana:**
2013 - 14,148 2014 - 18,255
- As of January 2016, there were **424 retail marijuana stores in the state of Colorado** compared to 322 Starbucks and 202 McDonald's.
- **68 percent of local jurisdictions have banned medical and recreational marijuana businesses.** [Read more](#)

Pot is bad news

A recent study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Psychiatry found that within the general population, cannabis use is associated with an increased risk of several substance use disorders, including alcohol and drug use disorders as well as nicotine dependence.

... The University of Colorado School of Medicine study showed that the most common complaints of users in the ER were gastrointestinal, followed by psychiatric and cardio-pulmonary problems, with marijuana use exacerbating numerous existing medical conditions. [Read more](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. Call your [State Representative](#) to Oppose HB 2353 and call your [State Senator](#) to Oppose SB 316. (Capitol switchboard 217-782-2000.
2. [Contact](#) Gov. Rauner and ask him to OPPOSE HB 2353 and SB 316 to safeguard children and public safety. **Call 217-782-6830 or 312-814-2121.**
3. Share this information with your faith community.
4. Forward to 10 others.

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