



June 16, 2017

Marijuana Alert Impact of Marijuana Legalization



Rep. Kelly Cassidy and Sen. Heather Steans are sponsoring identical bills (HB 2353 and SB 316) to legalize marijuana in Illinois. Read the articles below to learn more about the impact and harm of legalizing marijuana.

Companies need workers--but people keep getting high

Finding people to fill jobs in Colorado can be challenging. Job applicants are testing positive for marijuana, cocaine, amphetamine and heroin at the highest rate in 12 years, according to a new report from Quest Diagnostics. The most significant increase was in positive tests for marijuana. [Read more](#)

Study finds signs of brain changes in pot smokers

"What we think we are seeing here is a very early indication of what becomes a problem later on with prolonged use," things like **lack of focus and impaired judgment**, said Dr. Hans Breiter, a study author. **The study is among the first to focus on possible brain effects in recreational pot smokers**, said Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse. [Read more](#)

Teen cannabis use linked to illicit drug use

Researchers have found regular and occasional cannabis use as a teen is associated with a greater risk of other illicit drug taking in early adulthood. **One in 5 adolescents at risk of tobacco dependency, harmful alcohol consumption and illicit drug use** [Read more](#)

Concerns about marijuana legalization in Colorado

In Colorado, 70 percent of local governments have banned legal recreational marijuana sales within their boundaries.

Aversion to expanded sales[of marijuana] revolves around concerns about **public safety, quality of life, land use, residential proximity to sales and use, density of store locations, odor, and the health and safety of children.**

... In his 2017 State of the State speech, [Gov.] Hickenlooper addressed the challenges that accompany large-scale commercialization, including **upticks in mental illness and chronic homelessness, organized crime associated with increased black market activities**, and law enforcement problems of **underage use and endangerment to children.** [Read more](#)

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FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. Forward this Alert to your [State Representative](#) and [State Senator](#). Share your concerns about marijuana, and ask them to oppose the marijuana legalization.
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3. Forward to 10 others.

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