

March 4, 2013

## **Marijuana Action Alert**

### **HB 1 Legalizes Marijuana as Medicine**

Rep. Lou Lang filed the language for HB 1 to legalize marijuana as medicine. HB 1 will tax marijuana to provide revenue for the State. Marijuana cultivation centers will be set up at 22 locations near State Police district offices, and each distribution center will have 66 dispensaries to sell marijuana at 1,320 locations geographically dispersed throughout the entire state.

HB 1 will be heard in the House Human Services Committee on Wednesday, March 6, in Room D-1 at 8:00 a.m. <http://www.ilga.gov/house/committees/members.asp?committeeID=1190>

#### ***For Immediate Action***

1. Contact your State Representative <http://www.ilga.gov/house/> and ask him/her to oppose HB 1 to legalize marijuana as medicine. Use talking points below.
2. PRAY
3. Forward to 10 other.

#### **Talking Points - Oppose the Legalization of Marijuana as Medicine**

- HB 1 defines an adequate supply of marijuana as 2.5 ounces of cannabis during a 14 day period, and allows patients to apply for a waiver for even more marijuana, which equates to 183 joints--13 per day. Even the most experienced marijuana all-day-long drug user smokes on average only three to four joints a day, according to Educating Voices, Inc.
- HB 1 prohibits the possession or use of cannabis on the school grounds for preschool, elementary or secondary school, but not on college or university campuses. Why is it merely optional for colleges or post-secondary educational facilities to restrict or prohibit th Employers could face lawsuits and court costs to contest firing a qualified patient who was impaired. Will more employers move their businesses out of Illinois or think about locating in another State where they will not have to deal with this issue?
- HB 1 does not require a photo on the Public Health ID. Fake IDs could be used to purchase marijuana.
- HB 1 does not require a "homeless" marijuana patient to list an address on their Public Health ID. This creates a loophole that could be ripe for fraud.
- **HB 1 allows 18 year olds to apply for an ID to be a qualifying patient.** Will they be allowed to apply without parental approval? (p. 31)

- **HB 1 allows medical marijuana to be used in nursing homes, hospice, assisted living centers, residential care institutions, or adult day health care facilities. How will this impact the staff or other residents who have allergies or are using oxygen?**
- **DUI laws do not apply to the lawful consumption of cannabis by a qualifying patient UNLESS that person is impaired by the use of cannabis.** (p. 186) A person's status as a registry card holder alone is not a sufficient basis for conducting sobriety tests. The officer must have an independent, cannabis-related factual basis giving reasonable suspicion that the person is driving under the influence. (196-197) **HB 1 could result in more people driving after using marijuana for medical purposes and result in more car crashes. Rather than protect the public, HB 1 protects the marijuana user.** (p. 200)
- Cannabis infused products at registered cultivation centers or dispensing organizations are not regulated by the Dept. of Public Health or the Dept. of Agriculture. **What will happen if marijuana infused products are taken to households with young children who have allergies, who cannot read, and who do not know that these products contain marijuana?** More safeguards are needed to protect children and the public.
- **HB 1 requires three different departments to license and issue ID cards—Public Health, Agriculture, and Financial and Professional Regulation.** A computerized database or verification system must be put in place to coordinate these programs. **The bill only allows 180 days to get this system in place, yet allows all three departments to issue registry cards during the time the database is being established.** Rushing the process could be disastrous. (p. 67)
- If the Department fails to adopt rules to implement this law within 6 months, HB 1 enables citizens to file a lawsuit in the Circuit Court. (p. 72-73)