



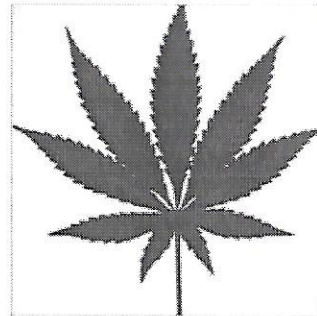
ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

May 4, 2016

Marijuana Action Alert

Call your Representative - SB 2228



SB 2228 - Reduces penalty for possession and changes zero tolerance law for Marijuana

SB 2228 treats the possession of marijuana (cannabis) like a speeding ticket. The person receives a uniform citation for possession of 10 grams of cannabis, (**approximately 25 "joints"**), pays a small fine (\$100 to \$200) and pleads guilty. **More people will use and deliver marijuana if the penalties are reduced.**

There is no age limit. Anyone middle school or high school age and up could possess marijuana. **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.**

SB 2228 attempts to establish a *per se* level of THC where driving impairment is determined. **Testing drivers for evidence of marijuana use is difficult because THC is fat soluble.** A lab test would find only a trace amount of THC in the blood of occasional marijuana users after a few hours. **"You could have smoked a good amount, just waited two hours, still be pretty intoxicated and yet pass the drug test [for driving]",** said Margaret Haney, a neurobiologist at Columbia University.

SB 2228 would allow drivers with marijuana in their systems to drive legally, which could result in even more fatalities on Illinois highways. In 2014, about 13% of the driving fatalities 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 in Illinois 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.**

Current law makes it illegal to possess marijuana unless someone has a medical marijuana card. Please ask your State Representative not to make marijuana more available on the streets of Illinois.

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION