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Marijuana Action Alert - November 16 Legislative Hearing on full legalization of marijuana on November 28!



The sponsors of identical bills to legalize marijuana for "recreational" purposes (SB 316/HB 2353) are Sen. Heather Steams, Chairperson of the Senate Appropriation 1 Committee, and Rep. Kelly Cassidy, Chairperson of the House Appropriations-Public Safety Committee. These committees held two hearings on the marijuana bills this summer.

Three additional committees were added for the upcoming Joint Legislative Subject Matter hearing on Economic Development and the Cannabis Regulation and Taxation Act.

Senate Appropriation 1
Senate Commerce and Economic Development
House Appropriations-Public Safety
House Economic Opportunity

House Tourism, Hospitality, and Craft Industries Committees**The sponsors want to tax and regulate marijuana like alcohol.**

Alcohol causes more problems than all illegal drugs combined. One of the reasons so many people use and abuse alcohol is because it is legal, acceptable, and so easily accessible.

The rate of alcohol use disorder (alcoholism) rose by 49 percent from 2002 to 2013, according to a new study. **One in 8 American adults--12.7 percent of the population--meets the diagnostic criteria for alcoholism;** and nearly **1 in 4 adults younger than 30** met the diagnostic criteria for alcoholism.

The Center for Disease Control estimates that **88,000 people die each year from alcohol-related causes, more than twice the annual death rate of opiate overdoses.** In 2010, **the cost to society for alcohol-related problems was \$249 Billion a year--over \$800 per year per person.** The cost could be even higher today.

Regulation has not stopped youth under the age of 21 from obtaining alcohol. The cost of underage drinking in Illinois is \$2.16 million per year.

In states where marijuana was legalized for "recreational use", there were increases in drugged driving crashes, homelessness, poison control calls, and emergency room visits related to marijuana.

These states also failed to shore up their budget shortfalls with marijuana taxes and continue to see a thriving illegal black market in marijuana, according to a recent report by Smart Approaches to Marijuana.

For Immediate Action

- The Joint Hearing on Nov. 28 is at 10:00 a.m. in Room C-600, 6th floor of Michael A. Bilandic Building, 160 N. LaSalle in Chicago. Attend the public hearing if you can or watch it live streamed on the General Assembly web site (www.ilga.org)
- Click on the committee links to see if your Legislators are members. Contact your State Representative and Senator to share your concerns and ask them to oppose the legalization of marijuana (SB 316 and HB 2353).
- Contact Governor Rauner and ask him to oppose the legalization of "recreational" marijuana.
- Share this Alert with your faith community and ask them to PRAY and CALL.
- Forward to 10 others.

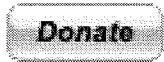
*Additional Information***FDA warns companies marketing unproven products, derived from marijuana, that claim to treat or cure cancer**

Selling these unapproved products with unsubstantiated therapeutic claims is not only a violation of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, but also can put patients at risk as these products have not been proven to be safe or effective.

. . . Unlike drugs approved by the FDA, the manufacture of these products has not been subject to FDA review as part of the drug approval process and **there has been**

no FDA evaluation of whether they work, what the proper dosage is, how they could interact with other drugs, or whether they have dangerous side effects or other safety concerns. [Read more.](#)

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