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## Marijuana Alert - Dec. 17, 2018



### **Medical groups oppose legalization of marijuana in IL**

The advice several medical organizations and doctors are giving state officials is to say "no" to a legislative push that would make Illinois the 11th state with expansive laws allowing legalized recreational use for adults.

"The preponderance of the evidence so far says marijuana is not a benign substance," said Dr. Raymond Bertino, a retired Peoria physician. "The evidence doesn't look good any way you look at it. When medical evidence looks bad, you don't need it to be conclusive to be careful."

Dr. Edward Pont, a practicing physician in Elmhurst who is government affairs chairman for the Illinois chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, said his group has adopted the national academy's opposition to legalization of recreational use.

... The Chicago-based Illinois State Medical Society's House of Delegates passed a resolution opposing legalization of marijuana for non-medical purposes in a state where medical marijuana has been legal through a highly regulated pilot program since 2013. [Read more](#)

## School Resource Officers see increase in teens using marijuana

New data shows a troubling increase in teen-agers' use of marijuana in Illinois, and a significant increase in vaping by teen-agers. Those are two major results from the second annual survey of School Resource Officers, who are police officers with primary responsibilities in schools throughout Illinois. [Read more](#)

This increase is concerning for the Executive Director of Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems Anita Bedell, because marijuana can lead to future problems. "Especially in young people, it can slow the maturation of their brain and there is a lot of brain development at this age." [Read more](#)

## Sen. Heather Steans apparently has had a staffer working full time on recreational pot legalization for at least a year.

... But if lawmakers vote on legalization legislation, presumably, it would require only a simple majority to say yes. **For those counting heads, a potential test vote will come soon.** A bill (**HB2367**) promoted by Assistant Senate Majority Leader Kim Lightford, D-Maywood, is expected to come for a **vote soon that would expunge the records of those found guilty of possession of small amounts of marijuana.** [Read more](#)

### *For Immediate Action*

1. Send a Christmas card/note to your current [State Senator](#) and ask him/her to **vote NO on HB 2367** and ask him/her to oppose the legalization/commercialization of marijuana.
2. Share with your faith community.
3. Forward to 10 others.

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