ILCAAAP
Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

Marijuana Alert - April 9, 2020

Smoking marijuana could make the lungs more susceptible to COVID-19 as cannabis sales spike
Smoking marijuana could also make a person's COVID-19 symptoms worse compared to a non-smoker.
   Dr. Panagis Galiatsatos, a pulmonologist and national spokesperson for the American Lung Association, said that people who smoke marijuana regularly are more likely to experience severe COVID-19 symptoms because evidence suggests **marijuana smoking can cause cells in the lungs to die.**
   . . .Galiatsatos recommends that people find alternative coping mechanisms to treat anxiety during the pandemic. [Read]

Marijuana not impacted by Stay-at-home order - Sales top $100 M
Per the release, both medical and recreational marijuana were deemed essential "to ensure the cannabis supplier industry protects medical cannabis patients during the COVID-19 pandemic," and because revenue generated by adult-use sales funds social justice and equity goals that are "at the core of Illinois' adult use law." [Read]

Chicago imposes curfew on Liquor sales
Liquor stores in Chicago will have to close at 9 p.m., starting today. Grocery and convenience stores that sell beer, wine and liquor will not be required to close early, so long as they stop selling packaged goods at 9 p.m.
   The mayor said, "far too many have been congregating at stores that sell liquor", especially in the evening hours.
   This is interrupting the drug market. They're using the liquor stores as a means to congregate to be able to pass their drugs back and forth," said Alderman Beale. "With

everything else being closed, the only place with people going in and out where you can make exchanges right now are liquor stores. Read more

Alton mayor's wife at party police busted, calls it 'a stunning lack of judgment'
 Officers broke up the party at Hiram's Tavern, 213 W. 3rd St. in Alton at approximately 1 a.m. Sunday. Simmons said a criminal complaint of reckless conduct will be filed against each person at the party for violating the state's State At Home order amid the coronavirus pandemic. Read

Coronavirus brings quick changes to state alcohol laws
States are temporarily relaxing laws on alcohol purchases. The new rules are intended primarily to provide relief for restaurants and small businesses. But the developments mark a sudden shift in state alcohol laws, which traditionally have been resistant to change. **In recent weeks, the alcohol industry has seen a decades-long wish list on easing sales restrictions fulfilled. Read more**

Related: **Direct shipment of alcohol to homes becomes law in Kentucky Read**
NOTE: SB 3830 would allow out of state retail wine stores to ship to homes in IL.

Politico IL Playbook - Senate Bipartisan Working Groups Meeting
The Illinois Senate has organized 17 bipartisan working groups to start hashing out pending legislation and new ideas for getting the state back on good economic footing. **Sen. Heather Steans is heading the cannabis working group.** Other members are Senators Lightford ,Peters, Villanueva, Barickman, DeWitte, and McClure. Full list here

For Immediate Action

The House and Senate are working on AGREED pieces of legislation behind closed doors. These bills will pass very quickly when the Legislature is called back in session.

1. Send a card or email to your State Senator and Representative and ask them to OPPOSE loosening restriction on marijuana and alcohol sales.
2. Share this Alert with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.
3. Forward to 10 others.

Stay Safe and have a Blessed Easter!

 Click here to donate to Illinois Churches in Action (tax deductible)

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