



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Oppose HB 0001

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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems (ILCAAAP) opposes the legalization of psychedelic drugs due to the potential negative impact they could have on public health and safety.

One major concern is that the decriminalization or legalization of psychedelics would lead to an increase in their use, which could result in more cases of acute psychosis and other mental health problems. According to a 2019 study published in the *Journal of Psychopharmacology*, the use of psychedelics is associated with an increased risk of mental health problems, including hallucinations, paranoia, and disordered thinking. The study found that the risk of psychiatric hospitalization was more than five times higher among those who had used psychedelics compared to those who had not.

Another concern is that the legalization of psychedelics could lead to increased drug abuse and addiction. The World Health Organization (WHO) states that psychedelics have a high potential for abuse, and can lead to dependence. A 2020 review published in the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, concluded that psychedelics are associated with a risk of abuse and addiction, and that long-term use can lead to impaired cognitive function and emotional regulation.

Moreover, ILCAAAP believes that legalizing psychedelics would send a mixed message to the public, particularly to young people, about the dangers of drugs. As stated in a report from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Legalizing drugs sends a message to young people that drugs are not dangerous, which could increase their willingness to try them. This can put them at risk of drug abuse and addiction, which can have devastating effects on their physical and mental health.

In conclusion, ILCAAAP opposes the legalization of psychedelic drugs due to the potential negative impact they could have on public health and safety. The risks associated with the use of psychedelics, including an increased risk of psychosis and other mental health problems, drug abuse, and addiction, outweigh any potential benefits. Therefore, ILCAAAP advocate for the continuation of current policies that criminalize the possession and distribution of these substances.

Source:

1. "Acute Effects of Classic Psychedelics on Psychotic Symptoms and Mood in People With a History of Psychotic Disorder: A Systematic Review" *Journal of Psychopharmacology*, 2019.
2. "The Risks and Benefits of Psychedelic Drugs: A Review" *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 2020.
3. "The Basics of Drugs" National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2021.

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