

Marijuana Alert - April 8, 2021



Chicago-based marijuana giant part of federal pay-to-play investigation

A Chicago-based marijuana cultivator and dispenser--Green Thumb Industries--that has rapidly grown into one of the nation's biggest pot firms is under federal investigation for possible pay-to-play violations during its push for coveted state licenses, sources said.

State records show that during its rise, GTI's executives and affiliates have spread cash to a number of politicians as well as a political action committee that were instrumental in the marijuana legalization effort. The company also hired a succession of lobbyists and consultants with deep ties to then-House Speaker Michael Madigan, records show.[Read more](#).

Legalized Pot Tied to Rise in Young Men's Suicide Attempts

States that make marijuana a readily available retail item might see an increase in self-harm among younger men, a new study suggests.

Researchers found a correlation between U.S. states' shifting marijuana policies and rates of self-harm among men younger than 40. Those rates -- which include **suicide attempts and non-suicidal behaviors like cutting** -- increased in states that legalized, and in some cases "commercialized," recreational marijuana. [Read](#)

Opinion: Recreational marijuana is bad for public health and safety

Words like "recreational" sound safe, yet **cannabis use increases the risk of depression, suicide, psychosis, cognitive impairment and worsened academic performance in youths**. Since the state of Washington legalized the recreational use of marijuana, studies have shown that **23% of youths who committed suicide had marijuana in their systems** — up from 14%. [Read](#)

Regrets from man who helped Colorado legalize marijuana

The fawning that legislators and executive branch officials bestow on this **criminal cabal** is mystifying. . . . This **industry genetically modifies plants** at a level that would make Monsanto blush, fouls our planet with chemicals and wasteful growing systems, **harms the poor and children**, is dominated by the wealthy and privileged, and proclaims its brilliance to a nauseating degree. [Read](#)

For Immediate Action

1. Contact Illinois U. S. Senator Durbin
<https://www.durbin.senate.gov/contact/email> and Senator Duckworth <https://www.duckworth.senate.gov/help/email-tammy> and ask them to OPPOSE the Marijuana Opportunity, Reinvestment and Expungement (MORE) Act.
2. **Share this Alert** with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.
3. **Forward to 10 others.**

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