



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

## Marijuana Alert - July 14, 2021



### **Sen. Schumer launches long-shot bid for legal weed**

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer released sweeping draft legislation Wednesday to legalize weed, officially kickstarting a difficult debate in his chamber that also makes a major splash for one of his campaign promises.

**Schumer has several reluctant members within his own caucus and will have to scrounge up at least 10 Republican votes** for the legislation during an already chaotic Senate calendar filled with Biden administration priorities on infrastructure, police accountability and education.

Schumer would also need to corner President Joe Biden — who has supported decriminalizing marijuana but not legalizing it — to sign the bill. Still, he's projected confidence about his odds in the past. Read

### **The Effects of Legalization of Recreational Marijuana in Illinois**

This paper, published by The Simon Review at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, explores the law and its implementation, and the potential public health impact. **Recreational marijuana legalization has resulted in an increase in marijuana use and a decrease in the perception of harmfulness.** Read

### **IL to get its first marijuana lounge**

Neither the Luna Lounge in Sesser nor Aroma's Hookah Bar in DeKalb are licensed to sell marijuana, so **customers must bring their own legally purchased weed.** Customers are still subject to state laws requiring cannabis to be in sealed container from a dispensary, and may still be arrested for driving while impaired. Luna customers pay a \$4.20 entry fee (the amount is a reference

to smoking pot) and may buy CBD, pipes and rolling papers and rent bongs out of the old bank vault. The lounge will provide entertainment, with bands, a fire eater and a tarot card reader for opening night, and comedians on other nights, plus video, cards and board games. A group of eight local church **pastors signed a letter opposing the lounge**, worried that it would promote drug use. A few people have come into Aroma's [Hookah Bar in DeKalb] to smoke pot since it opened to them June 25. They charge \$12 an hour for the first two hours, and \$7 an hour after that. **Dye expects traffic to pick up once students return to Northern Illinois University this fall. Read**

### **Activists Demand Reparations For Ex-Cons Convicted Of Marijuana Charges In Illinois**

Muhammad and Greg Sherman plan to camp outside a specific cannabis dispensary for the next week, "To highlight the inequities and injustice of the cannabis industry," Muhammad said. So far, out of nearly 100 dispensaries in the state, none of them are minority-owned. Read

### **California marijuana brands selling directly to consumers through websites**

For now, the trend appears to be taking place primarily in California, the largest marijuana market in the United States and the one with the most established and mature delivery infrastructure. But **insiders say they expect the practice will spread quickly to other states that also allow home delivery** . Read

#### ***For Immediate Action***

1. Contact Illinois' U. S. Senators Durbin and Duckworth and ask them to OPPOSE and vote against Senator Schumer's bill to legalize marijuana nationwide.
2. Talk with your State Legislators at public events this summer. Ask them to oppose home delivery of marijuana, on-site consumption, and bringing your own marijuana to lounges.
3. **Share this Alert** with your faith community and PRAY.
4. **Forward to 10 others.**

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



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