



# ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

## Marijuana Alert - July 20, 2021



### **Amazon endorsed legal weed. Will it now fight to make it happen?**

Lobbyists for legalization are pinning their hopes on Amazon using its experienced lobbying team and deep pockets to support their efforts, believing it could help them launch ad campaigns and persuade lawmakers opposed to legalization — especially those who represent states where cannabis is legal — to change their minds. Cannabis lobbyists and advocates who have spoken with Amazon made it clear that the company is already engaging in cannabis discussions in Washington, D.C. Whether Amazon actively lobbies or invests monetarily in legislation is the question on everyone's minds.

... Amazon has one of the more relaxed stances on cannabis among major U.S. employers. It supports legalization and made the decision to stop drug testing employees for cannabis, which will expand the company's prospective employee pool.

... **There are some indications, however, that Amazon is interested in trying to convince other companies and Congress to support legalization.** A number of advocacy and industry groups, including Drug Policy Alliance, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws and Canopy Growth Inc., have reported meeting with Amazon officials in the past month to discuss federal marijuana policy. [Read](#)

### **New push for marijuana legalization ignores science**

*The Lancet*, a highly respected medical journal, published a study in 2019 proving at least correlation and suggesting possible causation between marijuana use and psychosis. It found that roughly half of all cases of psychoses in Amsterdam could be prevented “if high-potency cannabis were no longer available.”

Another study, published in *JAMA Psychiatry* in February 2019, found adolescent marijuana use is associated with up to a 40% risk of developing depression and suicidal behavior in adulthood.

Roughly one-third of marijuana users develop an unhealthy dependency, and smoking marijuana increases the risk of a heart attack by almost 400%.

. . . Perhaps, the scariest fact is what researchers at the University of California San Diego reported last decade. Long-term use of marijuana by young adults under age 30 is believed to cause permanent brain damage in the form of “poorer performance on measures of attentional functioning.”

**Although it may be harmless relative to heroin or fentanyl, that doesn't mean it is objectively harmless or that the federal government should give up efforts at limiting its use.** [Read](#)

### **Study Shows Strong Association Between Perceived Risk, Availability and Past-Year Cannabis Use**

Individuals who perceived cannabis as both low-risk and available were 22 times more likely to have used cannabis in the past year than those perceiving cannabis as both high-risk and unavailable. [Read](#)

### **Study: Marijuana and Cancers, Birth Defects**

The extensive study published last week in the Nature family journal *Scientific Reports* further confirmed that cannabis, whether used medicinally or for recreational use, is causal in a range of adult cancers as well as a range of birth defects.

Both medical and recreational cannabis users need to be warned of the mutagenic and cancerogenesis properties of cannabis which causes severe genetic damage that can be passed down to future generations. [Read](#)

### **Psychosis is one of the oldest and best-documented risks of cannabis use**

No less than ten different peer-reviewed studies have shown strong correlation between the degree of cannabis exposure in earlier-life and the risk of schizophrenia in later-life. The risk of schizophrenia among regular cannabis users rises by an average of 300%. Some have reported a nearly 700% increased risk. [Read](#)

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

1. Contact Illinois' [U. S. Senator Durbin](#) and [Senator Duckworth](#) to share the above information. Ask them to OPPOSE and vote NO on Senator Schumer's bill to legalize marijuana nationwide.
2. **Share this Alert** with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.
3. **Forward to 10 others.**

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