



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

Marijuana Alert - March 10, 2021



State's ex-pot regulators, politicians cashing in

State Rep. Marty Moylan has now introduced legislation that would strengthen conflict of interest provisions in the legalization law that aim to prevent lawmakers, regulators and their families from profiting off the industry. ([HB 401](#))

Former Ald. Dick Simpson (44th), now a professor of political science at the University of Illinois at Chicago, said it's "a good idea is being introduced," though he favors "more sweeping prohibitions" to curtail potentially unethical behavior. "Any time you have people using the special knowledge they've gained as part of government to increase their private income, that opens up the area of potential conflicts that in their worst form become corruption," noted Simpson. [Read more](#)

Black market for marijuana still thriving in IL

With more than 80 recreational and medical marijuana dispensaries licensed and operating in Illinois, not to mention another 75 facilities in the pipeline, you might think drug dealers have moved on from marijuana. But police in the Chicago area say the black market for weed is red-hot. [Read more](#)

Chicago weed giant illegally took pot to Arkansas in Whole Foods salad containers, federal suit claims

. . . The suit includes dozens of co-defendants, including Verano CEO George Archos and other company executives. And it also targets individuals tied to Harvest and Natural State Wellness, as well as various investors and **a credit union in Colorado accused of laundering money in connection to the alleged trafficking scheme.**

The suit comes just weeks after Verano began trading publicly in Canada with a valuation of nearly \$3 billion, **making it one of the biggest weed firms in the U.S.** [Read more](#)

Community College in DesPlaines to expand marijuana program to include cultivation lab

The lab, the first of its kind on a community college campus in Illinois, will be funded with the majority of a \$600,000 donation from Chicago-based cannabis company PharmaCann.

About \$550,000 of the \$600,000 grant will be used to build and support the new lab on the Des Plaines campus, according to Oakton officials. The remaining \$50,000 is expected to establish the **PharmaCann Scholarship for Cannabis Education Programs.** [Read more](#)

IL marijuana company will make and distribute marijuana infused water

"It's the easiest kind of way to see new users enter the space ... much easier for me to share a drink with my mother than to share a joint," Ben Kovler, Green Thumb's chief executive officer told Reuters. [Read](#)

IL dispensaries developing new products, including POT pills

The pills have no taste or odor and would be easy for teens to hide! [Read](#)

Vaping marijuana associated with more symptoms of lung damage than vaping or smoking nicotine

Adolescents who reported vaping marijuana were roughly twice as likely to report "wheezing and whistling" in the chest than those who did not. Current use of cigarettes, e-cigarettes and cannabis were associated with some respiratory symptoms, such as dry cough, but most associations were not significant after controlling for vaping cannabis. [Read](#)

Editorial: CO should restrict the potency of marijuana concentrates, keep them away from teens

Colorado doctors say they are seeing an alarming spike in patients suffering psychosis — a break from reality that comes with disorders like schizophrenia — especially in young patients using high-potency marijuana concentrates. [READ](#)

Drug-Impaired Driving A National Threat To Public Health And Public Safety

Unlike alcohol, there are no impairment thresholds for drugs. Look at this chart showing marijuana impairment. [Fact Sheet](#)

For Immediate Action

1. Forward this Alert to your [State Representative](#) and [Senator](#) and ask them to SUPPORT HB 401 and OPPOSE legislation to expand marijuana and make the drug more accessible.
2. Share this Alert with your faith community and PRAY.
3. Forward to 10 others.

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



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