



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

Marijuana Alert - March 30, 2021



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

Investigators have been scrutinizing campaign donations and other steps Green Thumb Industries look as it sought to secure growing and distribution licenses in Illinois and several other states, sources told the Chicago Tribune.

In addition to lobbyists, the company brought some well-known Chicago names into the fold. In 2014, GTI made headlines by hiring former Chicago police Superintendent Terry Hillard and Terry Gainer, a former Chicago cop, Illinois State police director and head of the U.S. Capitol Police in Washington, D.C., to lead its security team.

Meanwhile, GTI and its affiliate companies **have donated to the campaigns** of a number of Illinois politicians and also gave tens of thousands of dollars to a pro-cannabis organization, which in turn infused cash into local and state legislative contests, state campaign records show. [Read more](#)

Church leaders Oppose Sesser cannabis lounge

The Sesser-Valier Ministerial Alliance submitted a letter to the City Council, saying [the coming Luna Lounge](#) will have a negative impact on the community. Eight area pastors signed the letter and delivered it to Sesser City Council, and what they're looking for is additional oversight on a new type of business coming to their community.

"As pastors, we're often called to intervene in the lives of those who have been hurt by drug abuse, drug addiction, and so we see the mess that it can create in the lives of people. . . . **By bringing in this lounge, we feel like it's going to help promote drug use in the community, and in the lives of individuals,**" says Packer. [Read](#)

8 people stabbed at Detroit hookah lounge

Seven men and one woman between the ages of 23 and 30 were stabbed during the incident, during which shots were also fired but no one was hit, Detroit police told CNN. The stabbings happened around 4:40 a.m. Sunday. [Read](#)

Efforts to unionize Illinois' cannabis workers

Efforts are underway across the state to unionize around 16,000 workers in Illinois' legal cannabis industry.

The UFCW has joined with the Service Employees International Union to organize jobs at cultivation centers, craft growers, infusers, dispensing and lab testing organizations. Moises said **the unions helped drum up support for the state's medical program years ago and the state's adult-use program that was implemented last year.** [Read](#)

For Immediate Action

1. Legislators are out of session until April 13th. Send your State Representative and Senator a card or e-mail to let them know you are praying for them and ask them to oppose:
HB 144 – Marijuana Clubs, Tours, Temporary events – consume marijuana on premise
HB 193 – Home Delivery of marijuana
HB 715 – Bring your own marijuana for on-site consumption at bars, restaurants, etc.
HB 3306 – Increase size and number of Craft Grow operations
2. Share this Alert with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.
3. Forward to 10 others.

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