



To Members of the Illinois General Assembly:

**I write to express my strong opposition to HB 4357 and SB 2228, which would decriminalize marijuana.**

Based on my more than 25 years of work at Pacific Garden Mission, I firmly believe that decriminalizing marijuana will lead to even greater addiction problems in Illinois and ultimately more homelessness.

Eighty-five percent (85%) or more of the people that walk through the doors of PGM carry with them an addiction. Many have told me that marijuana was the primary contributing factor which led them to hard drug use and to their lives taking a downward spiral.

Decriminalizing marijuana would remove an important roadblock that keeps people from ruining their lives through drug addiction.

Before voting on these bills I would encourage you to speak with some of the clients whose lives are now being transformed at the Pacific Garden Mission. They will tell you to vote no on both HB 4357 and SB 2228.

Because of Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip Kwiatkowski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Philip Kwiatkowski  
President  
Pacific Garden Mission

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