

To: Illinois General Assembly Members
From: Illinois Family Institute
Contact: Ralph Rivera (773) 392-8680
David E. Smith (773) 858-6602

PLEASE OPPOSE SB 753

Decriminalization of Marijuana

SB 753 will decriminalize the possession of up to 30 grams of marijuana and 5 plants for adults 21 and older.

Thirty (30) grams of marijuana makes 75 joints. The street value of 30 gram is \$3,000. Five (5) plants can produce 1,120 grams of marijuana, enough to make 2,800 joints and the street value is approximately \$11,200.

SB 753 will assuredly cause gang activity to grow and flourish.

The harms of marijuana are well documented.

Marijuana use leads to greater cognitive deficits, lower IQ's, loss of fine motor skills, a suppressed immune system, apathy, drowsiness, lack of motivation, sensory distortion, mental illness and anxiety. Absenteeism and dropping out of school are common in marijuana users who start young and use regularly.

New Research published in 2015:

- On February 18, 2015, **The Lancet** published the peer-reviewed work of a team of 23 scientists under the direction of Sir Robin Murray, Professor of Psychiatric Research at King's College, London titled: *Proportion of patients in south London with first-episode psychosis attributable to use of high potency cannabis: a case-control study*. (<http://goo.gl/6jIMQn>)

It shows that cannabis use triples psychosis risk and that use of high potency strains is responsible for 24 percent of new cases of psychotic mental illness.

- On February 16, 2015, **The Journal of Affective Disorders** published a study by Dr. Steven Marwaha from Warwick University, of more than 2,000 marijuana users, titled: *'Significant Link' Between Marijuana Use and Mania Ranging From Hyperactivity and Difficulty Sleeping to Aggression, Becoming Delusional and Hearing Voices*.

SB 753 will create significant problems for families, businesses, and communities throughout Illinois. ■

OPPOSE SB 753



P.O. Box 88848 | Carol Stream, Illinois 60188
708-781-9328 | ContactUs@illinoisfamily.org | www.illinoisfamily.org