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Medicinal marijuana has its drawbacks

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By **Leila Noelliste**

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While the Illinois Senate debates Bill 1381, which would allow patients with debilitating illnesses to legally possess medicinal **marijuana**, at least one law enforcement official said it's a bad idea.

Bob Bodemer, director of local drug enforcement agency Kankakee Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group (KAMEG), said the bill could turn patients into targets and dealers.

"If someone has very good (**marijuana**) plants, they could be susceptible to be a victim. And if you're talking about patients who are chronically ill or need them for pain management, they're a more vulnerable segment of the society. Now they're even more vulnerable not just because of their **medical** condition, but because they have access to **marijuana**. It's just like with prescription medication that people steal from family members, or other elderly people in the neighborhood," said Bodemer.

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Posted by **cray** from **Jax FL** at 12:24PM on Thursday, 4/16/09

This is actually a pretty informative article for the journal. Except for D.E.A. Bob's scare tactic comments and his made up numbers. Don't worry Bob, there's still more than enough real crime for you to keep your job.

Posted by **osm1** from **k3** at 3:43PM on Thursday, 4/16/09

i'm a PATIENT, not a criminal!!!! its about time illinois wakes up, the chinese have only been using it for pain relief for over 5000 years!!!

as far as being a potential victim of crime, 1) how about what we have to do NOW to get it? 2) make the penalty for victimizing the disabled or terminally ill a class X felony, and 3) i'll put a sign on my front door and in every window "PROTECTED BY SMITH & WESSON--DO YOU FEEL LUCKY?"

Posted by **cray** at 6:20PM on Thursday, 4/16/09

"If someone has very good (marijuana) plants, they could be susceptible to be a victim."

Is the same as If someone owns a nice T.V., they could be a susceptible victim. He needs a better argument than that. Then he thinks someone might sell it. How do you think patients get their medicine now Bob? Its not free for legal patients even in medical cannabis states. These reasons of his hold no water.

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Embrace Consignment Boutique

Posted by **magyk** at 6:53PM on Thursday, 4/16/09

Does it mean that everybody who has painkillers or xanax or sleeping pills are targets too? Why isn't Walgreens under 24- hr guard? If it was available in a dispensary then it's taxed, accessible, and keeps the criminals involved broke. Then the police can focus on crack, heroin, cocaine, and meth. Those drugs make people violent and dangerous. So does alcohol come to think of it. Talk about a gateway drug.

Posted by **grannypants** at 9:41AM on Friday, 4/17/09

I like how the article talks about "synthetic" marijuana. WHY would we want to put MORE chemicals in our bodies when there is a NATURAL form that has been proven to relieve symptoms? Ingesting more chemicals will only make our livers, pancreas and kidneys work harder and more likely to fail. What a ludicrous suggestion!

Posted by **hadenuff** from **k3** at 2:04PM on Saturday, 4/18/09

magyc--you hit the nail in the head!!!!!!--tha scare tactics DON'T work anymore!!!! education is the answer, not prison!!!!

Posted by **k3 citizen** at 11:13PM on Saturday, 4/18/09

Don't worry all of you Jeff Spiccolis out there! The tobacco companies will lobby to legalize pot since the upcoming taxes on cigarettes will knock off 20% or more of their smokers. A pack of joints would run about 20 dollars a pack.

Watch the old films of the "dangers" of marijuana, there funnier than SNL!!

Posted by **k3 citizen** at 11:26PM on Saturday, 4/18/09

Didn't the same medical associations approve giving labodomies to women who couldn't conceive?

The govt. should legalize pot now and charge a \$5 tax on a pack of joints, make enough money to get us out of debt, rescind the law once we are in the black, and then go back to their hypocritical ways of saying they care about health. Cigarettes are not illegal and they cause the same amount of damage.

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