

**HB3715 exempts students, “enrolled students,” from any legal consequences for delivering cannabis in public, private, or charter schools or at public or private colleges, community colleges, or universities, on school buses or school property.**

**MARIJUANA PRIMES THE BRAIN FOR OTHER DRUGS —  
*People addicted to marijuana are three times more likely to be  
addicted to heroin.*<sup>1</sup>**

- ❑ **Marijuana is a gateway drug.** Marijuana is a high-inducing drug that compromises the reward system in the brain by stimulating the pleasure chemical, dopamine which subsequently leads people to need marijuana to feel reward. Marijuana use dampens the brain’s response to reward over time and may actually open marijuana users up to more risk of becoming addicted to that drug or others.<sup>2</sup>
- ❑ A Yale study showed that alcohol, cigarettes, and marijuana were associated with an increased likelihood of prescription drug abuse in men 18 – 25. In women of that age, only marijuana use was linked with a higher likelihood of prescription drug abuse.<sup>3</sup>
- ❑ People susceptible to taking drugs are more likely to begin with readily accessible drugs, such as marijuana. Sharing the drug using experience with others increases chances of trying different drugs.<sup>4</sup>
- ❑ **HB3715 is a serious threat to Illinois kids, young people and families!**
  - ✓ After alcohol, marijuana has the highest rate of dependence or abuse among all drugs.<sup>5</sup>
  - ✓ Most people using drugs began when they were teens, and more than half of new illicit drug users started with marijuana.<sup>6</sup>
  - ✓ Drug use is highest among people in their late teens and twenties.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Robert L. DuPont, **Marijuana Has Proven to Be a Gateway Drug**, New York Times, April 26, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Meghan E. Martz, **Association of Marijuana Use With Blunted Nucleus Accumbens Response to Reward Anticipation**, University of Michigan Health System, *JAMA Psychiatry*, 2016.

<sup>3</sup> Lynn Fiellin, MED '96, Yale University School of Medicine, *Journal of Adolescent Health*, August 20, 2012.  
[www.thecrimereport.org/archive/2012-08-pot-as-gateway-drug](http://www.thecrimereport.org/archive/2012-08-pot-as-gateway-drug)

<sup>4</sup> National Institute of Health, National Institute of Drug Abuse, **Is marijuana a gateway drug?**, January 2917

<sup>5, 6, 7</sup> National Institute of Health, National Institute of Drug Abuse, **About the Survey**, June 2015.

