

National Black Church Initiative

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NBCI Smells Conspiracy Behind Medical Marijuana Bill

Rep. Lou Lang is Chief Conspirator

Washington DC - The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) a coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African American churchgoers strongly believe that Rep. Lang and Rep. Kenneth Dunkin are in collusion to legalize marijuana in the State of Illinois. Is this what Martin Luther King and the millions of decent black churchgoers marched from Selma, Alabama for --- so that state legislators can allow African American youths to get high?

HB1 is an immoral conspiracy crippling every young person in Illinois, especially black youths who are already unjustly underserved in society. Underpinning this tragedy are political agendas promoting medical marijuana under the guise of helping the sick. In reality, Rep. Lang and Rep. Dunkin could be anticipating contributions from the marijuana lobby to bolster future campaigns. They do not care that a medical marijuana law -- the first step to legalization--- will harm tens of thousands of young African Americans who will be enticed to manipulate the system to get a marijuana card so that they can get high. This is morally shameful, wrong, and the Black Church will not stand by and let this happen.

The Rev. Anthony Evans, President of the NBCI says, “Rep. Lang does not care one iota about the black community. This law will have a debilitating effect on young African American youths - especially males. HB1 is only a stepping stone to legalizing marijuana and destroying the black community, by legalizing getting high. We do not have to detail the historic manipulation of the black community by those who are not a part of our community - like Representative Lang. We are ashamed that black legislators and black doctors have been manipulated to support a bill that is extremely harmful to the soul of our community.”

NBCI is not the only national professional group not supporting this medical marijuana bill. The National Black Religious Broadcasters, the Federal Food and Drug Administration, the Office of

National Drug Control Policy, The National Institute on Drug Abuse, The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency, The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, The American Glaucoma Society, The American Academy of Ophthalmology, The American Cancer Society, The American Society of Addiction Medicine and The American Academy of Pediatrics are also opposed to this bill on scientific grounds.

HB 1 is dangerous to society. Under its provisions, teenagers may a medical marijuana card without parental permission and cardholders may drive immediately after use and are allowed 2.5 ounces every 14 days, totaling 183 joints. No patient with a serious medical illness smokes one joint an hour? The excess will be given away to friends or sold. Additionally, a ban on using blood or urine tests after a traffic stop is replaced by field sobriety test, described by the Illinois Sheriffs' Association as unrealistic and unworkable.

The Illinois legislature is not the FDA, and acting as such will cause great harm to the people of Illinois. Our children should not have ready access to marijuana, and our black youth should not be put at a further disservice in society to line the pockets of misguided politicians. The Black Church will continue to fight for our children's futures and against those lawmakers who seek to legalize the destruction of our communities.

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI's programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.