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Letter: Gets facts about marijuana use

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As a political moderate, rarely am I angered enough to write a letter. But the Feb. 4 letter by Kathy Valente, director of operations of the Illinois Family Institute (IFI) infuriated me enough to speak up.

It begins, "With absolutely no regard for solid facts or evidence from other states, lawmakers are set to legalize and tax marijuana. They are actually willing to put our children's future at great risk for an insignificant amount of revenue." She continued with a barrage of FALSE "statistics" about the effects marijuana has had on the states that have legalized marijuana.

"The increase in adolescent and teen use is staggering. In Colorado, it's the No. 1 problem in schools. Medical research has found that youth who use regularly risk losing 8 IQ points or more. ... In states with recreational marijuana, employers are having difficulty finding employees who aren't high. Traffic fatalities have doubled." False, false, and laughingly false.

Here is a fact. "No spikes in fatal traffic accidents or fatalities ... in fact, more granular statistics reveal that the fatality rate for drug-related crashes was virtually unchanged after legalization." (Source: Colorado Department of Transportation).

I strongly suggest you read the unbiased paper, "Dose of Reality: The Effects of State Marijuana Legalizations," by Angela Dills (Western Carolina University), Sietse Goffard (Harvard University), and Jeffrey Miron (Harvard University and the Cato Institute).

I still have faith that Americans are insightful enough to see who is promoting an agenda, and who is telling you facts.

And please, try to avoid that "dangerous pothole."