



WE ARE THE CANNABIS UNITY COALITION

The Cannabis Unity Coalition is the nation's largest bipartisan alliance of 30+ cannabis advocacy organizations united for the purpose of passing federal legislation to fully legalize cannabis and release all cannabis prisoners.

Although 24 states and D.C. have legalized adult-use cannabis sales and the vast majority of the U.S. population now lives in states with some form of legal cannabis, hundreds of thousands of Americans are still being arrested on an annual basis, while tens of thousands remain in state and federal prison, watching the development of the legal cannabis industry from behind bars. The Cannabis Unity Coalition is pushing for descheduling and effective strategies for undoing the past harms of prohibition. As long as marijuana remains in any Schedule of the Controlled Substances Act, it will be criminalized at the federal level.

CANNABIS UNITY WEEK OF ACTION

To achieve this goal, the Cannabis Unity Coalition mobilizes the 70% of public support for legalization through a week of action in our nation's capital. This action includes scheduled meetings with members of Congress and their staff, a press conference to ensure our message is heard clearly, and a rally in front of the White House to remind the President of the United States of America of the urgency of this issue and his power to pardon those currently incarcerated.

COALITION MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS



PRIMARY CONTACT: JASON ORTIZ



JASON@LASTPRISONERPROJECT.ORG



(860) 639-8101



FEDERAL CANNABIS LEGALIZATION

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DESCHEDULING BILLS

CANNABIS ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (CAOA)

The CAOAA would decriminalize cannabis by removing it from the Controlled Substances Act. This would remove criminal penalties for cannabis manufacturing, distribution, and possession. The CAOAA includes a process to automatically expunge records of arrests or convictions for non-violent federal cannabis offenses and a sentence modification program for individuals still incarcerated on cannabis-related offenses. Additionally, the CAOAA would establish a community reinvestment program to help repair the harms caused by federal marijuana criminalization and create protections for workers in the cannabis industry. The bill would set up programs in the Small Business Administration for cannabis businesses and would grant jurisdiction over cannabis to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

MARIJUANA OPPORTUNITY REINVESTMENT AND EXPUNGEMENT ACT (MORE)

The MORE Act would federally decriminalize cannabis by removing marijuana from the list of scheduled substances under the Controlled Substances Act and would remove federal criminal penalties for its manufacture, distribution, or possession. This act grants the federal government primary enforcement authority. The MORE Act includes equity provisions through community reinvestment programs, expungement opportunities for certain offenses, and loans and services through the Small Business Administration for cannabis businesses.

STATES REFORM ACT (SRA)

SRA federally decriminalizes cannabis by removing it from the Controlled Substances Act, empowering states to determine their own prohibition statuses and commercial regulations. In doing so, this act proposes treating cannabis products like alcohol, meaning that states can continue to prohibit cannabis, but interstate commerce would be federally legal, so cannabis can travel freely through all states. SRA provides opportunities for individuals and military service members with past convictions through sentence modification, expungement, and re-entry resources.

OTHER CANNABIS BILLS TO CONSIDER

EVIDENCE-BASED DRUG POLICY ACT

Currently, the CSA prohibits the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) from conducting any study related to the legalization of a Schedule I substance, including marijuana. The CSA also requires ONDCP's director to oppose any effort to legalize a Schedule I substance. This bill would repeal these restrictions.

GUN RIGHTS AND MARIJUANA ACT

This bill removes federal firearms-related restrictions on certain individuals who use marijuana. Currently, federal firearms law prohibits the sale or disposition of a firearm or ammunition to people who are unlawful users of or addicted to a controlled substance. This bill exempts from the prohibition an adult whose use of or addiction to marijuana is lawful in the state or on the tribal lands where the person resides.



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OTHER BILLS TO CONSIDER (CONTINUED)

HARNESSING OPPORTUNITIES BY PURSUING EXPUNGEMENT ACT (HOPE)

This bill authorizes the Department of Justice (DOJ) to make grants to states and local governments to reduce the financial and administrative burden of expunging convictions for state cannabis offenses. The bill also requires the DOJ to study and report on (1) the effects on an individual of a criminal record report of a conviction for a criminal offense related to cannabis, and (2) the costs incurred for incarcerating an individual for a criminal offense related to cannabis.

MARIJUANA IN FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING PARITY ACT

This bill specifies that (1) an individual may not be denied occupancy of federally assisted housing on the basis of using, distributing, possessing, selling, or manufacturing marijuana in compliance with state law; and (2) the Department of Housing and Urban Development may not prohibit or discourage the use, distribution, possession, sale, or manufacture of marijuana in federally assisted housing if the activity is in compliance with state law.

PREPARING REGULATORS EFFECTIVELY FOR A POST-PROHIBITION ADULT-USE REGULATED ENVIRONMENT ACT

This bill directs the Department of Justice to establish the Commission on the Federal Regulation of Cannabis to study a plausible and prompt pathway to cannabis regulation.

STRENGTHENING THE TENTH AMENDMENT THROUGH ENTRUSTING STATES ACT (STATES)

STATES aligns federal law with state cannabis policies by exempting cannabis produced and sold in compliance with state law from the federal definition of "marijuana." This change would harmonize state and federal law by excluding state-regulated cannabis markets from the Controlled Substances Act and would allow state-licensed cannabis companies in good standing to operate like similarly situated businesses in other regulated industries. It would also permit the shipment of cannabis products between states where cannabis is legal.

VETERANS CANNABIS USE FOR SAFE HEALING ACT

This bill prohibits the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from denying a veteran any VA benefit due to participation in a state-approved marijuana program. For veterans participating in these approved programs, the VA must ensure its health care providers (1) discuss marijuana use with such veterans and adjust treatment plans accordingly, and (2) record such use in the veterans' medical records. Under the bill, the VA shall authorize physicians and other VA health care providers to provide recommendations to veterans who are residents of states with approved programs.

WELDON ANGELOS PRESIDENTIAL EXPUNGEMENT ACT

If a person has received a full presidential pardon, the Act would allow that person to obtain an expungement of their criminal record for the pardoned activity. This bill accomplishes this by creating a court-initiated review of cases in district courts to issue orders of expungement for existing pardon recipients. The government is afforded an opportunity to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the expungement was "not an expungeable event or that the interests of justice and of public safety weigh against expungement."