

Al Capone would have loved it if alcohol had only been decriminalized

- The criminalization of cannabis is a disproportionate public policy response to personal behavior that is, at worst, a public health matter -- not a criminal justice concern.
- Those adults who consume marijuana responsibly in private should not face arrest, potential incarceration, a criminal record, and the lifelong stigma associated with it. Such penalties are inappropriate for the personal consumption of a substance that is objectively safer than alcohol or tobacco, as well as many conventional medications.
- The Schedule I classification of marijuana is intellectually dishonest and is inconsistent with both public opinion and scientific reality; it is not accurate to allege that cannabis does not possess 'accepted' therapeutic utility or that it lacks accepted safety under a physician's supervision.
- Marijuana, like alcohol and tobacco, does not belong as a federally scheduled substance under the Controlled Substances Act. Descheduling cannabis would permit states to establish their own marijuana regulations absent undue federal interference.
- It is time to stop ceding control of the marijuana market to untaxed black-market enterprises and to allow state governments the opportunity to pursue alternative regulatory policies free from the threat of federal intervention or prosecution.
- 75 percent of Americans, representing majorities of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, believe that the federal government should not enforce criminalization in states that regulate marijuana use, production, and sales.
- 68 percent of Americans, representing majorities of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, believe that marijuana should be legalized for adults over the age of 21.

The most prominent marijuana descheduling bills pending before the Congress are:

HR 1588: The Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act

Purpose: Remove marijuana from the Controlled Substances Act and allow states to regulate as they see fit, free from federal interference.

Lead Sponsors: Rep. Tulsi Gabbard [HI] and Rep. Don Young [AK]

S. 597 / HR 1456: The Marijuana Justice Act

Purpose: Remove marijuana from the Controlled Substances Act, expunge federal marijuana convictions, and implements mechanisms to end the racial disparity in marijuana convictions, among other purposes.

Lead Sponsors: Senator Cory Booker [NJ] and Rep. Barbara Lee [CA]

S. 3174: The Marijuana Freedom and Opportunity Act

Purpose: Remove marijuana from the Controlled Substances Act, provide resources to facilitate expungements of local marijuana convictions, and implement mechanisms to entrepreneurship and small businesses in the emerging marijuana industry.

Lead Sponsors: Senator Chuck Schumer [NY] and Rep. Hakeem Jeffries [NY]