

## **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]