

March 15th, 2022

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth H.O.B
Washington, DC 20515

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

RE: The Marijuana Opportunity, Reinvestment, and Expungement (MORE) Act

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, and Honorable Members of the U.S. House of Representatives:

We, the undersigned organizations, write today in support of the House of Representatives voting in favor of the MORE Act before the April recess.

This important legislation would end the federal prohibition and criminalization of marijuana, thus giving individual states the authority to be the primary arbiters of cannabis policy. Further, the bill would provide much-needed clarity in regards to the existing legal marijuana programs in 37 states where the sale of cannabis is authorized for either medical or adult-use purposes.

Under current law, states and businesses are restricted from even the most basic needs of achieving a safe and accessible marketplace, such as banking services or insurance. This has a further deleterious impact on the over 429,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs supported by legal cannabis as of February 2022. All of this has happened while legal states have reported a combined total of \$10.4 billion in tax revenue from legal, adult-use cannabis sales as of December 2021.

Ultimately, the need for the MORE Act is not an economic argument, but rather an issue of respecting the civil rights of our people in a free country.

According to the most recent FBI UCR, there were an estimated 350,150 arrests for marijuana-related violations in 2020. That is an average of one American being placed in handcuffs every 90 seconds. From data analyzed by the ACLU, the racial disparity in those arrests amounts to Black Americans being 3.7 times more likely to be arrested than their white counterparts, despite similar consumption rates amongst racial crosstabs.

By passing the MORE Act, states and localities would have access to much-needed financial support to build programs to automatically expunge previous convictions. Nearly two dozen states and many more localities have enacted reforms to provide such relief, yet more support is needed.

The MORE Act already has a legislative track record of success, having passed on a bipartisan vote of 228-164 in December of 2020. There is no justification for continued inaction in the 117th Congress and we implore you to bring this bill to the floor before the April recess.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Justin Strekal with Better Organizing to Win Legalization at justin@usefulstrategies.us.

Sincerely,

Better Organizing to Win Legalization

American Family Voices

Blue Future

Broward for Progress

Build Back Better USA

Center for Common Ground

Clergy for a New Drug Policy

Drug Policy Alliance

Indivisible Northern Nevada

Law Enforcement Action Partnership

Minorities for Medical Marijuana

National Employment Law Project

Northridge Indivisible

OD Action

Oregonizers

Our Revolution

People's Action

Students for Sensible Drug Policy

The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls

Venice Resistance