



OVERVIEW

A super-majority of Americans support an end to cannabis prohibition. According to polling from Gallup, Pew, and Quinnipiac, nearly 70% of Americans want cannabis fully decriminalized and over 90% want medical cannabis products available to patients and veterans. Only 3 states today lack some form of legal cannabis (Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska). It is past time federal law codifies this reality.

Congresswoman Nancy Mace's bill seeks to end the criminalization of cannabis in the United States in a manner consistent with the rights of states to determine what level of cannabis reform or legalization each state wants to regulate, or not. This bill will also limit a number of barriers inhibiting innovation and entrepreneurship in a free and open market. The States Reform Act takes certain care to keep Americans and their children safe while ending the federal preemption of and interference with state cannabis laws.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Federally decriminalizes cannabis from Schedule I and defers to states over prohibition or regulation. No state or local government will be forced to change its current cannabis policies.
- Regulates cannabis federally like alcohol under USDA for growers, ATF/TTB for cannabis products, and FDA for medical use.
- Institutes a low 3% federal excise tax on cannabis products to fund law enforcement, small business, and veterans mental health initiatives.
- Ensures the safe harbor of state medical cannabis programs and patient access while allowing for new medical research and products to be developed.
- Federal release and expungement for those convicted of nonviolent, cannabis-only related offenses. This will not include cartel members, agents of cartel gangs or those convicted of driving under the influence (DUI). Approximately 2,600 releases will be expected at the federal level. State level releases and expungements will be left to each state to determine.
- Protects military veterans by ensuring they will not be discriminated against in federal hiring for cannabis use or lose their VA healthcare benefits.
- Protects children and young adults under the age of 21 from cannabis products and advertising nationwide. Incentivizes states to make cannabis illegal for anyone under the age of 21, with a medical exception for prescribed use. Provides funding to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to ensure protections for minors are being considered.
- Protects medical cannabis for the following uses: arthritis, cancer, chronic pain, sickle cell, HIV/AIDS, PTSD and other medical uses per a state's specific cannabis regulations.

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