



DELAWARE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF DELAWARE
411 LEGISLATIVE AVENUE DOVER,
DELAWARE 19901

April 6, 2023

The Honorable Thomas Carper
301 North Walnut Street
Suite 102L-1
Wilmington, DE 19801-3974

The Honorable Chris Coons
1105 N. Market St.
Suite 100
Wilmington, DE 19801-1233

The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester
1105 N. Market St.
Suite 400
Wilmington, DE 19801-1233

Dear Senators Coons and Carper and Congresswoman Blunt Rochester,

We are writing to request that, as our Congressional delegation, you would give careful consideration to supporting federal legislation that would deschedule marijuana in our nation.

To support this request, the Delaware State Senate approved (on March 9, 2023) Senate Resolution 11, urging our delegation to deschedule the substance. Through its passage, SR 11 recognizes that marijuana does not belong in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, a classification intended for exceptionally dangerous substances with high potential for abuse and no medical use.

Other key highlights of SR 11 include the following important facts:

Under the Controlled Substance Act, drugs, substances, and certain chemicals used to make drugs are classified into five distinct categories or schedules depending upon the drug's acceptable medical use and the drug's abuse or dependency potential: and

Schedule I drugs, substances, or chemicals are defined as drugs with no current accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse; and

Marijuana (cannabis) is classified as a Schedule I drug, alongside Heroin, though marijuana has many well documented medical uses; and

According to the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, modern medical research has confirmed the beneficial uses for marijuana in treating or alleviating the pain, nausea, and other symptoms associated with a variety of debilitating medical conditions, including cancer, multiple sclerosis, and HIV/AIDS; and

Marijuana has many currently accepted medical uses in the United States, having been recommended by thousands of licensed physicians to at least 350,000 patients in states with medical marijuana laws; and

There are approximately 5.4 million state-legal patients in the U.S. & its territories who are unable to receive medical insurance prescription health coverage for medical marijuana, primarily due to the drug's federal designation; and

In its State of the States 2021 report, the advocacy group Safe Access Now estimated that medical marijuana customers at states dispensaries were likely to pay as much as \$350 before they could access and pay the cost of marijuana; and

Marijuana is not an eligible health savings account expense because the drug is illegal under federal law, even if it's being used for medicinal purposes; and

Due to the current federal designation, monies that can be traced back to a state marijuana operation could be considered aiding and abetting a federal crime and money laundering; and


Most financial institutions are unwilling to accept this risk, meaning medical marijuana distributors have limited access to traditional banking and financial services, and are forced to operate in cash; and

Operating a business with large amounts of cash on hand is a public safety threat, as these establishments become targets for crime, putting the safety of staff and patients at risk; for example, while dispensaries make up less than 1% of Denver businesses, they accounted for 10% of all reported commercial burglaries from 2012 to 2016.

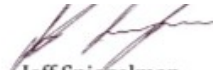
Your careful consideration of our request that you begin to take legislative action to deschedule marijuana on the federal level is very much appreciated.

We look forward to promptly hearing back from your offices on our request.

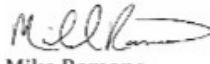
Sincerely,



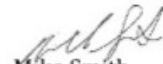
Eric Buckson
State Senator
16th District



Jeff Spiegelman
State Representative
11th District



Mike Ramone
State Representative
21st District



Mike Smith
State Representative
22nd District



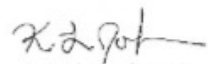
Eric Morrison
State Representative
27th District



Kim Williams
State Representative
19th District



Ed Osienski
State Representative
24th District



Kendra Johnson
State Representative
5th District



Madinah Wilson-Anton
State Representative
26th District



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17th District



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11th District



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State Senator
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Sarah McBride
State Senator
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Marie Pinkney
State Senator
13th District



Gerald Hocker
State Senator
20th District



Brian Pettyjohn
State Senator
19th District