

Hello,

I live in Los Angeles and am a proud supporter of Los Angeles NORML, which is the local chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. We support NORML's mission to repeal the prohibition of marijuana at the local, state and federal level by educating those in our community about marijuana and hemp and their potential medical and industrial use while promoting the responsible use of marijuana by adults.

I am reaching out regarding your office's position on federal cannabis reform and specifically legislation introduced by Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler and Congressional Cannabis Caucus co-Chairs Earl Blumenauer and Barbara Lee, known as the Marijuana Opportunity, Reinvestment, and Expungement Act, HR 3884, or The MORE Act for short. The MORE Act would exert a very positive impact, and bring substantial federal resources to our residents in Los Angeles as described below.

The bill currently has over 80 cosponsors, including Assistant Speaker Ben Ray Lujan; Democratic Caucus Chairman Hakeem Jeffries and caucus-Vice Chair Katherine Clark; and Committee Chairs Maxine Waters, Jim McGovern, Raul Grijalva, and Nydia Velazquez; and Cannabis Caucus co-Chairs Earl Blumenauer and Barbara Lee.

The MORE Act is supported by the Marijuana Justice Coalition, of which NORML is a member. Other groups in the alliance include The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, The Drug Policy Alliance, The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), The Center for American Progress (CAP), The United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW), Human Rights Watch, the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC), the National Association of Social Workers, the Veterans Cannabis Coalition, and many others.

It is our hope that your office would join these leaders and cosponsor the bill to ensure that the House will take comprehensive action on cannabis policy in the 116th Congress and demonstrate to the American people that it is time to end the failed policy of marijuana prohibition, which was [implemented](#) in 1937 and further criminalized in 1970 out of explicit racial animus.

Key Facts:

- According to a recent [report](#) by the ACLU, Black Americans are 3.6 times more likely to be arrested for cannabis-related crimes than white Americans.
- According to the FBI UCR, over 663,000 Americans were [arrested](#) for marijuana-related crimes in 2018 alone.
- The state-legal cannabis industry [employs](#) over 243,000 full-time workers. In context, that is over 4 times the number of jobs in the coal industry.
- While the substance is not without harm, it is far less harmful than legal and [regulated](#) alcohol and tobacco.

The MORE Act would:

- Decriminalize marijuana federally by removing cannabis from the Controlled Substances Act
- Facilitate federal expungements for minor charges and incentivize state and local governments to do the same
- Create pathways for ownership opportunities by minority entrepreneurs through the SBA
- Allow veterans to obtain medical cannabis recommendations from their VA doctors
- Remove the threat of deportation for immigrants among other important changes.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR LOS ANGELES

- **Expungement:** The MORE Act would expunge the records of those with prior cannabis convictions. A study by the Government Accountability Office found that Los Angeles County had the most per capita cannabis arrests of any major County in the United States during the period 1980-2010. Los Angeles County residents would thus disproportionately benefit from a policy that would expunge cannabis convictions, which often function as a significant barrier to obtaining employment and other critical benefits. At a time of pressing economic need, the MORE Act would provide a boost to some of the County's most vulnerable residents.
- **Immigration:** The MORE Act would also protect immigrants from being denied citizenship because they work in the cannabis industry, and remove the threat of deportation for those immigrants involved in minor cannabis violations. Immigrants make up more than 35% of the population of Los Angeles County, higher than any other major County in the United States. The MORE Act would thus provide critical protections to a substantial percentage of County residents and help ensure that they can participate in the growing cannabis economy without fear of reprisal by the federal government.
- **Reinvestment:** The MORE Act also would impose a federal five percent tax on sales, revenue from which would be reinvested in communities most impacted by cannabis criminalization. Because residents of Los Angeles County disproportionately suffered from cannabis arrests, the MORE Act would ensure that substantial federal resources are devoted to economic uplift in the County. It would also reflect the principles that the City of Los Angeles' social equity program in seeking to ensure that those communities most negatively impacted by cannabis criminalization benefit from its legalization.

To cosponsor the bill, please reach out to Chairman Jerry Nadler's team.

If you have any questions on the legislation or suspect that your boss could potentially vote against this legislation when it comes to the floor, please let us know and provide us the opportunity to address your concerns.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and timely response to this message.