

June 7, 2018

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cory Gardner
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren and Senator Gardner,

As a network of concerned citizens advocating for the end of the federal government's prohibition of marijuana, we write to you in strong support of the Strengthening the Tenth Amendment Through Entrusting States (STATES) Act of 2018.

Federal marijuana prohibition endangers public health and public safety, limits economic development, impedes scientific research, and leads to unjust and unnecessary arrests and incarceration. This failed federal policy is responsible for arrest of more than 600,000 Americans annually, a disproportionate share of whom are black, brown, young, and poor. We believe it long past due for Congress to take action to reform these outdated, unjust laws.

Today, nearly every state in the country has taken steps toward implementing common-sense laws legalizing at least some aspects of cannabis commerce - making it clear that existing federal statutes are out of step with our federalist system and require immediate federal reform.

We applaud you for your leadership in taking bipartisan action to ensure that state actions are safeguarded and for providing the legal certainty needed to allow states to determine their own marijuana enforcement priorities.

The STATES Act retains important federal protections to promote the responsible use of marijuana by adults. We are pleased that the safeguards provided to states in the bill are also extended to Washington D.C., U.S. territories, and to tribal nations. We also support the STATES Act's inclusion of language removing industrial hemp from the Controlled Substance Act. This provision is critical to supporting the rights of farmers to commercially cultivate non-psychoactive strains of cannabis for industrial purposes, such as food and fiber production.

Swift passage of the Warren-Gardner bill defends the rights of the majority of American constituents living in jurisdictions that legally authorizes some uses of marijuana and safeguards the will of the overwhelming majority of Americans of all political ideologies. We urge your colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join in support of bipartisan legislation in order to provide states with the authority and autonomy to set their own marijuana policies absent the fear of federal incursion.

Sincerely,

The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML)
Alabama NORML
Arizona NORML
California NORML
California NORML
Cannabis Cultural Association and CCANorml

Central Florida NORML
Charlotte NORML
Charlotte NORML
Chicago NORML
Colorado NORML
Delaware NORML
Denver NORML
El Paso NORML
Empire State NORML
Illinois NORML
Indiana NORML
Kentucky NORML
Lehigh Valley NORML
Lowcountry NORML
Maryland NORML
MassCANN/NORML
Nevada NORML
New Mexico NORML
NORML Memphis
NORML Memphis
NORML of Florida
NORML of Michigan
NORML of Michigan
NORML Women of Washington
North Carolina NORML
Oregon NORML
Peachtree NORML
Pittsburgh NORML
Texas NORML
Virginia NORML
Washington NORML
Wyoming NORML
ACLU of Virginia
Americans for Safe Access
Canna-Patient Resource Connection
Drug Policy Alliance
Drug Policy Reform Network of Oklahoma
Hoosier Veterans For Medical Cannabis, Inc.
Marijuana Policy Project
Minority Cannabis Business Association
National Cannabis Industry Association
Progress Texas
Progressive Congress Action Fund
Republicans Against Marijuana Prohibition
Seattle Hempfest
StoptheDrugWar.org
Students for Sensible Drug Policy
Texans for Responsible Marijuana Policy
Texas Cannabis Industry Association
Veterans for Safe Access and Compassionate Care
WOLA - Washington Office on Latin America