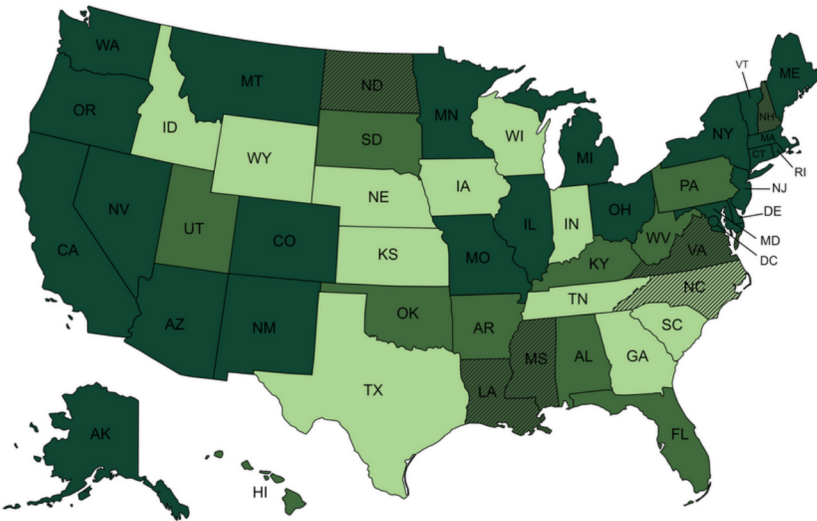


STATES ACT OF 2023

TO PROTECT FEDERALISM AND ALLOW STATES TO CREATE A SAFE AND EFFECTIVE CANNABIS MARKET

More than 50 years ago Congress adopted the Controlled Substances Act and prohibited the possession, sale, and manufacture of cannabis. Our federal laws still look the same today but now, 24 states allow adults to use marijuana, and 38 have a medical marijuana program. States as diverse as Alabama, Connecticut, Montana, Ohio, and Virginia have decided that complete prohibition is an imprudent policy for their citizens. However, the resulting conflict with federal law leaves patients, doctors, business owners, and law enforcement with significant uncertainty. This situation undermines the credibility of federal law and the rule of law itself.



Prohibition has not achieved its goals and distracts law enforcement from its core role of protecting public safety.

Sadly, we have not gained the benefits we hoped for from federal prohibition and control of marijuana policy. Trends in marijuana use show no consistent response to enforcement efforts and the prevalence of cannabis use has increased among many age groups compared with the 1970s. All the while, law enforcement agencies have shifted more and more resources away from their core mission of solving and preventing property and violent crime and toward drug enforcement efforts. This leaves too many victims without justice and jeopardizes public safety.

“This situation undermines the credibility of federal law and the rule of law itself.”

70% of Americans

Believe that marijuana should be fully legalized [Gallup, 2023]

70% of Republicans

Want Congress to allow states to decide [FTP Insights, 2023]

All 50 states have adopted some form of cannabis reform.

24

Allow Adult Use

38

Allow Medical Use

31

Decriminalized Possession

60%+ (Violent)

87%+ (Property)

Of crimes go unsolved each year [FBI, 2023]



IT IS TIME TO RESTORE FEDERALISM

The American people overwhelmingly support changes to federal laws regarding cannabis and allowing states to make the best decisions for their citizens. The STATES Act aligns federal policy with state policy so existing cannabis markets, where they exist, are safer. It will also allow federal law enforcement efforts to be focused on keeping cannabis out of states where it remains illegal and fighting back against the cartels and gangs who undermine public safety in communities across the country. The legislation makes the following key changes to federal policy.

01

Defer to State Policy

STATES does *not* federally legalize cannabis. It merely allows states to make their own choice by amending the Controlled Substances Act so that it no longer applies to someone complying with their state laws.

02

Support Small Businesses

STATES will help small businesses in every state by creating a marketplace where licensed operators can effectively compete with the illicit market and have access to capital and customers in other states that choose to allow a market for medical or adult use.

03

Improve Public Safety

STATES will empower federal agencies to work with states to ensure product safety and quality, combat driving under the influence, prevent youth access, and prevent addiction and mental health issues.

04

Refocus Federal Resources

STATES will allow federal law enforcement agencies to refocus their resources in ways that help local law enforcement properly enforce their unique state laws, regardless of whether cannabis is legal or illegal in that jurisdiction.

05

Protect Our Veterans

STATES will protect veterans by ensuring that they will not be denied the federal benefits they have earned in states where they can legally use cannabis to treat PTSD and other medical problems.

06

Prevent Youth Access

STATES will ensure that both illicit and state-legal cannabis products stay out of the hands of children and teenagers by prohibiting individuals under the age of 21 from consuming or distributing cannabis products, unless prescribed for a true medical purpose by that person's doctor.

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