

# MEDICAL CANNABIS POLICY TALKING POINTS

## **NEED FOR LEADERSHIP**

*"The recent recognition of cannabis' medical value by federal health agencies underscores the critical need for Congress to update and harmonize existing laws. While the rescheduling of cannabis marks a significant advance, it does not address all the complexities of its use as a medical treatment."*

*"States have fulfilled their role as laboratories of democracy for medical cannabis policy. It's now our responsibility as lawmakers to ensure that laws keep pace with science and public opinion and pass comprehensive medical cannabis legislation."*

## **NEED FOR FEDERAL MEDICAL CANNABIS POLICY**

*"By integrating medical cannabis into our national healthcare framework, we can offer patients more effective treatment options for chronic and debilitating conditions, potentially reducing reliance on more harmful medications like opioids."*

*"Federal reform is necessary to ensure all patients, including veterans, active duty military and federal employees, can benefit from medical cannabis."*

*"State laws are falling short, leaving many patients behind. We need comprehensive federal policies that guarantee access to affordable medical cannabis for everyone."*

## **RESTORING PATIENT RIGHTS**

*"Without comprehensive federal legislation on medical cannabis, millions of patients are stripped of basic rights. This forces many Americans into a difficult position: they must choose between following their healthcare provider's advice and the potentially severe consequences of losing critical federal services and rights, a decision that directly threatens their livelihood and well-being."*

*"The absence of comprehensive medical cannabis legislation leaves millions without essential federal protections, compelling patients to make an impossible choice: their health or their basic rights. For many, prioritizing health could mean risking their housing, education, and financial stability, underlining the urgent need for federal action."*

*"Patients should not have to choose between their rights and their health. It's time to end the federal prohibition on medical cannabis and restore patient freedoms."*

## **MCCA & PRODUCT SAFETY**

*"A regulated cannabis market is a safer market, ensuring that all products meet the highest standards of public health."*

*"The current unregulated markets pose risks due to product quality and safety variability. A federal program will ensure that all products meet rigorous health and safety standards, protecting consumers from inferior or dangerous products."*

*"National standards are essential for ensuring patient safety and product consistency, which can actually foster consumer confidence and drive market growth. These standards would level the playing field, encouraging innovation within a safe and regulated environment. Patient health should be our top priority."*

## **CANNABIS MEDICINES & HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS**

*"Medical cannabis presents a cost-effective solution for managing refractory symptoms in chronic conditions, highlighting its potential to enhance patient care while reducing healthcare expenditures."*

*"Embracing medical cannabis as part of our healthcare strategy means embracing innovation and new hope for millions of patients."*

# MISINFORMATION SLOWS PROGRESS

## MYTH: CANNABIS IS NOT AN FDA-APPROVED DRUG, SO IT IS NOT A MEDICINE.

While it's true that cannabis as a whole plant is not yet FDA-approved, it's important to recognize that the therapeutic benefits of cannabis are well-documented and supported by numerous studies and reputable organizations. Many states have established medical cannabis programs based on the substantial body of evidence supporting its effectiveness. These programs serve over 6 million patients and are designed to provide patients with access to cannabis under the guidance of healthcare professionals.

## MYTH: MORE RESEARCH IS NEEDED TO INFORM CHANGES IN CANNABIS POLICY

While more research is always beneficial, numerous studies and authoritative bodies like the HHS, FDA, NIH, and the National Academies of Science have already recognized the therapeutic potential of medical cannabis. Patients are experiencing real, documented relief from conditions like chronic pain, epilepsy, and multiple sclerosis. We can continue research while ensuring patients have access to treatments that improve their quality of life.

## MYTH: CANNABIS LEGALIZATION IS THE GOAL OF MEDICAL CANNABIS PATIENTS

Adult-use markets are primarily designed to generate tax revenue for states and serve a clientele aged 21 and older, focusing on recreational consumers. When states pass laws merging recreational cannabis programs with existing medical markets, the result is often a loss of integrity in the medical cannabis program and neglect of the specific needs of medical patients.

Medical patients require consistent access to standardized formulations and dosages tailored to their health conditions, while recreational consumers are typically interested in "what's new," which is prioritized in these markets. Additionally, the conflation of medical and recreational markets leads to higher prices and reduced availability for patients who rely on cannabis as a critical component of their healthcare regimen. Forcing patients to navigate adult-use markets trivializes their medical needs and fails to respect their right to access treatment with dignity, privacy, and without stigma.

# PATIENTS NEED FEDERAL LEADERSHIP

9,000,000	VETERANS USING VA HEALTH SERVICES
1,870,000	FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
112,846,000	AMERICANS LIVING WITH CHRONIC PAIN
100+	OPIOID DEATHS EACH DAY
2,100,000	AMERICANS IN SECTION 8 HOUSING (23% ARE DISABLED)
1,720,000	AMERICANS IN HOSPICE
67,300,000	AMERICANS USING MEDICARE
37,900,000	AMERICANS LIVING IN POVERTY
25,000,000+	AMERICANS LIVING WITH RARE DISEASES



Patients hear  
**INACTION**  
Loud & clear



Fact sheets,  
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