



Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Representative Nancy Mace  
U.S. House of Representatives  
212 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Nancy Mace,

On behalf of the thousands of activists we support at End It For Good, we write to express our strong support for the States Reform Act (H.R. 5977). This legislation will allow more families and communities opportunities to thrive in states that have chosen to establish a regulated cannabis marketplace.

[End It For Good](#) is a conservative Mississippi-based nonprofit inviting people to support approaches to drug policy that prioritize life and the opportunity to thrive. This includes ending cannabis prohibition. The conservative values we hold at End It For Good haven't changed, but our understanding of the policies best aligned with those values has.

In our home state of Mississippi, [83% of us identify as Christian](#)<sup>1</sup> and more than half of Mississippians now [support the legalization of cannabis](#)<sup>2</sup> for adult use. As we've traveled across Mississippi with End It For Good over the last 3 years, leading educational events with well over thousands of participants, we've heard why conservative minds are changing on this issue. We want safe communities, healthy kids, and a culture with strong morals. Ending cannabis prohibition gets us closer to each of those, for the following reasons.

First, any popular substance that is banned from the legal economy will be supplied by a criminal underground market. [In this way, cannabis prohibition creates crime](#)<sup>3</sup>. As long as the cannabis industry is barred from legal operation, criminal activity is financially rewarded and [billions of dollars](#)<sup>4</sup> from consumers are funneled directly into the coffers of organized crime every year. The prohibition of cannabis does not fight crime. It funds it.

Second, cannabis legalization does not lead to increased use among youth. A [recent study](#)<sup>5</sup> in the Journal of the American Medical Association examined data from 10 states with cannabis programs. It found youth use either remained the same or decreased in the years since legalization. This makes sense because legalization, on the other hand, puts cannabis transactions behind an age-restricted counter, offering at least one layer of protection to our children.

Third, many people of faith believe cannabis legalization is a loss of moral ground. I've become convinced the opposite is true. On the supply side, [thousands of people](#)<sup>6</sup> are killed every year with predictable, preventable violence from the underground drug market. On the demand side, the lives of [tens of thousands of consumers](#)<sup>7</sup> are ruined every year through unnecessary arrests. If they are incarcerated, they get disconnected from their work, family, housing, and community. When people come

out of incarceration they're traumatized and have a criminal record, making it immensely more difficult to build a thriving life.

The American people also overwhelmingly support this policy change. [Almost 70% support](#)<sup>8</sup> legalizing cannabis and more than [90% say that cannabis should be legal for medical use](#)<sup>9</sup> Many states have revised their policies to reflect the will of their citizens, but the federal government has continued to impose uncertain and [arbitrary marijuana policies](#)<sup>10</sup>.

The States Reform Act acknowledges cannabis' potential as an innovative medical treatment while also seeking to prevent the harms of recreational use among youth. The legislation includes necessary provisions needed to keep cannabis out of the hands of minors. It also empowers the federal government to join states in encouraging continued reductions in use by children we have seen across states that have created [adult-use markets for the product](#)<sup>11</sup>. Furthermore, the bill creates pathways for the Department of Veterans' Affairs to conduct much-needed research into innovative treatments for our veterans while ensuring that former servicemen and women who do consume cannabis are not denied access to federal employment or the benefits they've earned by serving our great nation.

We are greatly encouraged by your commitment to ending federal cannabis prohibition and strongly encourage members of both parties to join you in supporting the States Reform Act. It is time for the federal government to get out of the way.

Respectfully,

Brett A. Montague  
Chief Executive Officer  
End It For Good

CC: Rep. Jamie Raskin  
Rep. Tom McClintock  
Rep. Brian Mast  
Rep. Peter Meijer

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1 <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/religious-landscape-study/state/mississippi/>

2 [https://www.millsaps.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SotS\\_June\\_2021.pdf](https://www.millsaps.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SotS_June_2021.pdf)

3 <https://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/jep.9.4.175>

4 <https://growcola.com/legal-vs-illicit-cannabis-sales-2020/>

5 <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2783850>

6 <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/row/R41576.pdf>

7 <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/01/22/four-in-ten-u-s-drug-arrests-in-2018-were-for-marijuana-offenses-mostly-possession/>

8 <https://news.gallup.com/poll/356939/support-legal-marijuana-holds-record-high.aspx>;

9 <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/04/16/americans-overwhelmingly-say-marijuana-should-be-legal-for-recreational-or-medical-use/>.

10 <https://www.ncsl.org/research/civil-and-criminal-justice/marijuana-overview.aspx>

11 <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2737637>