



# CANNABIS LEGALIZATION

Policy Reform And Economic  
Priorities From The Black Perspective

**SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 1, 2022**

**Washington DC**



# CRESCO

Partnership Acknowledgment

**Social Equity & Education Development™**

Our mission for SEED™ is to develop tangible pathways into the cannabis industry for communities impacted by the War on Drugs through our three pillars: restorative justice, community business incubation, and education & workforce development.

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# MINORITIES FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA (M4MM)

## FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA (2022 – 2024)

### SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

M4MM recognizes the evolving landscape and pledge to be the rational voice in the storm, to drive outcomes that deliver broad returns for our members and the greater constituencies we serve. We will not hide from the work this will take or become impatient at the length of time this will take. Federal legislation will take multiple years of engagement advocacy and outcomes. Ensuring a balanced federal policy that supports home-grown small businesses, restorative social justice, and economic freedom is our #1 priority.

As we work towards federal policy advancement, we will continue to work on building balance and economic inclusion, diversity through legislative action, and community equitable return on licensing opportunity within the Commercial Marijuana and Hemp Industry Sectors at the state and U.S. Territory level. M4MM will apply a detailed policy approach as outlined through the following structural pillars to ensure equitable opportunity and impact of opportunity for persons from communities disproportionately impacted by the enforcement of previous Cannabis prohibition laws:

- **Licensing Structure and Process**
- **Increasing the Share of Minority Owner-Operator's Licensees**
- **Economic Inclusion and Expansion**
- **Employment and Professional Mobility**
- **Supplier Diversity & Revenue Opportunity**
- **Improving Health Outcomes**
- **Municipal Empowerment: Minority Majority Municipalities and Counties**
- **Restorative Social and Economic Justice Impacts**

These pillars of action will be deployed through the combined work of our National Policy Director for Cannabis and Hemp, our state level Directors and Chapter Presidents and collaborative partners within each state's Commercial Medical and/or Adult-Use Recreational Cannabis programs and Commercial Hemp Licensing policies. We will work through the following action steps:

- Engaging legislative policy and appropriations committees, chamber leadership and state Executive branch stakeholders (regulatory departments, Governor policy and fiscal advisors)
- Development of recommended statutory language models for amending existing laws or newly proposed enabling legislative bills
- Engaging municipal and county stakeholders on the importance of preserving and enabling local regulatory and zoning ordinance powers
- Engaging and building coalition partnerships with Cannabis, Hemp, Minority Business, Organized Labor, Clean Energy, Environmental Justice, Prison & Corrections Reform, and Workforce Development Advocacy Organizations to support sustainable policy objectives

## SUMMARY OF CURRENT CANNABIS AND HEMP RELATED CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION

**H.R.3617: MARIJUANA OPPORTUNITY REINVESTMENT AND EXPUNGEMENT ACT - SPONSOR: REP. NADLER, JERROLD [D-NY-10] (INTRODUCED 05/28/2021) COSPONSORS: (114)- THIS BILL HAS PASSED THE HOUSE.**

Summary: The MORE Act decriminalizes marijuana. Specifically, it removes marijuana from the list of scheduled substances under the Controlled Substances Act and eliminates criminal penalties for an individual who manufactures, distributes, or possesses marijuana

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Strongly Support

**S.4591: CANNABIS ADMINISTRATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT - SPONSOR: SEN. BOOKER, CORY A. [D-NJ] (INTRODUCED 07/21/2022) COSPONSORS: (4)**

Summary: The Cannabis Administration and Opportunity Act (CAO Act) aims to decriminalize cannabis by removing the drug from the federal list of controlled substances. Additionally, the legislation tackles other issue areas related to research, public safety, restorative justice and equity, taxation and regulation, public health and industry practices.

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Support

**H.R.5977: STATES REFORM ACT - SPONSOR: REP. MACE, NANCY [R-SC-1] (INTRODUCED 11/15/2021) COSPONSORS: (4)**

Summary: the bill defers to the rights of states for the legalization of cannabis and does not require any state to change or modify its laws on the drug. Additionally, the measure supports federal decriminalization and the release and expungement of any nonviolent, cannabis-only conviction. The bill aims to regulate cannabis like alcohol and requires the FDA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the TTB, which would be renamed as the Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis Tax and Trade Bureau, to release guidelines for medical cannabis and policies for growers and producers.

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Do Not Support As Presented

**S.4622: SAFE ADVERTISING ACT OF 2022 - SPONSOR: LUJAN, BEN RAY [SEN.-D-NM] (INTRODUCED 07/26/2022) COSPONSORS: (1)**

Summary: The Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Advertising Act, which will permit radio and television stations to accept advertising for legal cannabis products if the station is licensed in states that permit the advertising of medical or adult-use cannabis. The SAFE Advertising Act removes the risk that stations could lose their licenses if they accept ads for legal cannabis products. For stations in states that have not legalized cannabis advertising, the legislation would leave the law as it is today and would not interfere with state regulation of cannabis advertising.

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Support

**H.R.1996: SAFE BANKING ACT OF 2021, SPONSOR: REP. PERLMUTTER, ED [D-CO-7] (INTRODUCED 03/18/2021) COSPONSORS: (180) & S.910 - SAFE BANKING ACT OF 2021 - SPONSOR: SEN. MERKLEY, JEFF [D-OR] (INTRODUCED 03/23/2021): LATEST ACTION: SENATE - 09/08/2022 COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS. HEARINGS HELD.**

Summary: The SAFE Banking Act creates a safe harbor for financial institutions to provide traditional banking services to cannabis and cannabis-related businesses in states that have legalized the drug and also allows cannabis and cannabis-related businesses to access traditional banking services like lines of credit, loans and wealth management. This bill prohibits a federal banking regulator from penalizing a depository institution for providing banking services to a legitimate cannabis-related business. Prohibited penalties include terminating or limiting the deposit insurance or share insurance of a depository institution solely because the institution provides financial services to a legitimate cannabis-related business and prohibiting or otherwise discouraging a depository institution from offering financial services to such a business.

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Support

**H.R.8200: THE CLIMB ACT - SPONSOR: REP. CARTER, TROY [D-LA-2] (INTRODUCED 06/23/2022) COSPONSORS: (1)**

Summary: To amend any applicable federal law to permit access to community development, small business, minority development, and any other public or private financial capital sources for investment in and financing of cannabis-related legitimate businesses, and to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to create a safe harbor for national securities exchanges to list the securities of issuers that are cannabis-related legitimate businesses.

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Strongly Support

**H.R.5651: FRESH START ACT OF 2021 - SPONSOR: REP. TRONE, DAVID J. [D-MD-6] (INTRODUCED 10/20/2021) COSPONSORS: (31)**

Summary: This bill authorizes the Department of Justice to award grants for states to implement automatic expungement laws (i.e., laws that provide for the automatic expungement or sealing of an individual's criminal records).

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Strongly Support

**H.R.5657: MEDICAL MARIJUANA RESEARCH ACT - THIS BILL HAS PASSED THE HOUSE. IT HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN THE SENATE ON 04/05/2022 - SPONSOR: REP. BLUMENAUER, EARL [D-OR-3] (INTRODUCED 10/21/2021), COSPONSORS: (11)**

Summary: This bill establishes a new, separate registration process to facilitate Medical marijuana research. Specifically, it directs the Drug Enforcement Administration to register (1) practitioners to conduct medical marijuana research, and (2) manufacturers and distributors to supply marijuana for such research. Additionally,

the Department of Health and Human Services must continue to produce marijuana through the National Institute on Drug Abuse Drug Supply Program and implement a specialized process for supplying marijuana products available through state-authorized marijuana programs to researchers until manufacturers and distributors can provide a sufficient supply of marijuana for medical research.

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Support

**H.R.3105: COMMON SENSE CANNABIS REFORM FOR VETERANS, SMALL BUSINESSES, AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS ACT - SPONSOR: REP. JOYCE, DAVID P. [R-OH-14] (INTRODUCED 05/11/2021) COSPONSORS: (9)**

This bill removes federal restrictions on, and creates new protections for, marijuana-related conduct and activities that are authorized by state or tribal law. The legislation aims to responsibly reform the federal government's ineffective cannabis policy and protect the state's rights. In non-cannabis legal states, the bill would also remove cannabis from the CSA, allow the VA to prescribe medical cannabis to veterans and create a safe harbor for financial institutions and other businesses. If enacted, the measure also calls for the FDA and the TTB to develop a regulatory framework modeled after the alcohol industry and directs the National Institutes of Health to conduct two studies focusing on pain management and cannabis impairment.

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Strongly Support

**H.R.2588: VETERANS MEDICAL MARIJUANA SAFE HARBOR ACT - SPONSOR: REP. LEE, BARBARA [D-CA-13] (INTRODUCED 04/15/2021) COSPONSORS: (18) & S.1183 - VETERANS MEDICAL MARIJUANA SAFE HARBOR ACT. - SPONSOR: SEN. SCHATZ, BRIAN [D-HI] (INTRODUCED 04/15/2021) COSPONSORS: (10)**

Summary: This bill provides guidance related to veterans and medical marijuana that shall be effective for five years. Specifically, the bill authorizes (1) a veteran to use, possess, or transport medical marijuana in accordance with applicable state or Native American tribal law; (2) a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) physician to discuss with a veteran the use of medical marijuana as a treatment if the physician is in a state or on tribal land that authorizes such treatment; or (3) a VA physician to recommend, complete forms for, or register veterans for participation in a medical marijuana treatment program in accordance with applicable state or tribal law. The bill requires the VA to report on (1) the effects of medical marijuana on veterans in pain; and (2) the relationship between state-approved medical marijuana treatment programs, program access, and opioid use and abuse reduction.

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Support

**S.1467: VA MEDICINAL CANNABIS RESEARCH ACT OF 2021, SPONSOR: SEN. TESTER, JON [D-MT] (INTRODUCED 04/29/2021) COSPONSORS: (4) & H.R.2916 — VA MEDICINAL CANNABIS RESEARCH ACT OF 2021 SPONSOR: REP. CORREA, J. LUIS [D-CA-46] (INTRODUCED 04/30/2021) COSPONSORS: (6)**

Summary: This bill directs the VA secretary to facilitate a series of clinical trials on the effects of cannabis, specifically researching adverse health outcomes for veterans with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The bill required the VA to investigate different components of PTSD and pain management. In addition to requesting that THC to CBD ratios be studied, the legislation calls for a research plan to be formed within 180 days of the bill's passage.

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Support

**H.R.8454: MEDICAL MARIJUANA AND CANNABIDIOL RESEARCH EXPANSION ACT**  
**SPONSOR: REP. BLUMENAUER, EARL [D-OR-3] (INTRODUCED 07/21/2022)**  
**COSPONSORS: (10) & S.253: CANNABIDIOL AND MARIJUANA RESEARCH EXPANSION ACT, SPONSOR: SEN. FEINSTEIN, DIANNE [D-CA] (INTRODUCED 02/04/2021)**  
**COSPONSORS: (10) PASSED SENATE (03/24/2022)**

Summary: The bill expands and streamlines scientific and medical research capabilities for cannabis and its compounds. This bill establishes a new, separate registration process to facilitate research on marijuana. Specifically, the bill directs the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to follow specified procedures to register (1) practitioners to conduct marijuana research, and (2) manufacturers to supply marijuana for the research. The bill allows certain registered entities (including institutions of higher education, practitioners, and manufacturers) to manufacture, distribute, dispense, or possess marijuana or cannabidiol (CBD) for the purposes of medical research. Additionally, the bill directs the DEA to register manufacturers and distributors of CBD or marijuana for the purpose of commercial production of an approved drug that contains marijuana or its derivative.

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Support With Conditions

**H.R.6129: HARNESSING OPPORTUNITIES BY PURSUING EXPUNGEMENT ACT OF 2021 - SPONSOR: REP. JOYCE, DAVID P. [R-OH-14] (INTRODUCED 12/02/2021) COSPONSORS: (5)**

Summary: This bill authorizes the Department of Justice (DOJ) to make grants to states and local governments to reduce the financial and administrative burden of expunging convictions for state cannabis offenses. The bill also requires DOJ to study and report on (1) the effects on an individual of a criminal record report of a conviction for a criminal offense related to cannabis, and (2) the costs incurred for incarcerating an individual for a criminal offense related to cannabis.

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Strongly Support

**H.R.8197: VETERANS EQUAL ACCESS ACT - SPONSOR: REP. BLUMENAUER, EARL [D-OR-3] (INTRODUCED 06/23/2022) COSPONSORS: (24)**

Summary: This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to authorize VA health care providers to (1) provide veterans with recommendations and opinions regarding participation in their state's marijuana programs, and (2) complete forms reflecting such recommendations and opinions.

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Support

**H.R.7900: NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023, SPONSOR: REP. SMITH, ADAM [D-WA-9] (INTRODUCED 05/27/2022) - LATEST ACTION: SENATE - PASSED THE HOUSE & 08/03/2022 READ TWICE. PLACED ON SENATE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR UNDER GENERAL ORDERS. CALENDAR NO. 467. SEC. 539B. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SENTENCING OF MARIJUANA-BASED OFFENSES UNDER THE UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE.**

(a) Recommendations. --The Military Justice Review Panel shall develop recommendations specifying appropriate sentencing ranges for offenses involving the use and possession of marijuana under chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

In developing such recommendations, the Military Justice Review Panel shall consider--

(b) Report.-- Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Military Justice Review Panel shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report that includes the recommendations developed under subsection (a).

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Support

**H.R.3212: MARIJUANA IN FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING PARITY ACT OF 2021 - SPONSOR: DEL. NORTON, ELEANOR HOLMES [D-DC-AT LARGE] (INTRODUCED 5/13/2021) COSPONSORS: (0)**

Summary: This bill specifies that (1) an individual may not be denied occupancy of federally assisted housing on the basis of using marijuana in compliance with state law, and (2) the Department of Housing and Urban Development may not prohibit or discourage the use of marijuana in federally assisted housing if such use is in compliance with state law.

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Strongly Support

**S.862: CLARIFYING LAW AROUND INSURANCE OF MARIJUANA ACT - SPONSOR: SEN. MENENDEZ, ROBERT [D-NJ] (INTRODUCED 03/18/2021) COSPONSORS: (3) & H.R.2068: CLAIM ACT - SPONSOR: REP. VELAZQUEZ, NYDIA M. [D-NY-7] (INTRODUCED 03/18/2021) COSPONSORS: (1)**

Summary: This bill generally provides a safe harbor from penalties or other adverse agency action for insurance companies that provide services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses in jurisdictions where such activity is legal. The Government Accountability Office must report on barriers to marketplace entry for minority-owned and women-owned cannabis-related businesses.

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Support



**H.R.7513: PREPARE ACT OF 2022 - SPONSOR: REP. JOYCE, DAVID P. [R-OH-14]  
(INTRODUCED 04/14/2022) COSPONSORS: (3)**

Summary: The PREPARE Act would direct the Attorney General of the United States to establish the 'Commission on the Federal Regulation of Cannabis' to advise on the development of a regulatory and revenue framework to ensure safe production and consumption of cannabis, modeled after the alcohol industry which accounts for the unique needs, rights and laws of each state, and present such a framework to Congress within one year; Help grant medical professionals critical research access and training, as well as economic opportunity to individuals and small businesses by providing access to the financial sector and Develop protections for the hemp industry, including cross pollination prevention efforts

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Support With Conditions

**H.R.2864: CLEAN SLATE ACT OF 2021 - SPONSOR: REP. BLUNT ROCHESTER, LISA  
[D-DE-AT LARGE] (INTRODUCED 04/28/2021) COSPONSORS: (17)**

Summary: Establishes a framework for sealing records related to certain federal criminal offenses. Courts must automatically seal records related to (1) a conviction for simple possession of a controlled substance or for any nonviolent offense involving marijuana, or (2) an arrest for an offense that does not result in a conviction. Additionally, an individual who meets certain criteria may petition to seal records related to a conviction for other nonviolent offenses.

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Strongly Support

**H.R.6645: HEMP ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2022 SPONSOR: REP. PINGREE, CHELLIE  
[D-ME-1] (INTRODUCED 02/08/2022),**

Summary: To promote the production of hemp and hemp products, and for other purposes. The bill aims to raise the THC limits for hemp crops and hemp extracts, eliminate the USDA's laboratory testing requirement by the DEA and remove drug-related felonies for individuals seeking to acquire a hemp license.

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Strongly Support

**S.1005: HEMP ACT OF 2021- HEMP ECONOMIC MOBILIZATION PLAN ACT OF 2021 -  
SPONSOR: SEN. PAUL, RAND [R-KY] (INTRODUCED 03/25/2021) COSPONSORS: (0)**

Summary: This bill modifies the definition of hemp to raise the tetrahydrocannabinol (THC, the psychoactive component of marijuana) limit from 0.3% to 1%. Additionally, the bill requires the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and state and tribal governments to test hemp-derived products rather than the hemp flower or plant itself and creates a margin of error in hemp testing using 0.075% as the baseline standard. Further, it requires hemp shipments to contain (1) a copy of a valid license or other authorization from USDA or a state or tribal government, or (2) a copy of a certification from a laboratory showing that such hemp contains a THC concentration of not more than 1% on a dry weight basis.

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Support

**H.R.841: HEMP AND HEMP-DERIVED CBD CONSUMER PROTECTION AND MARKET STABILIZATION ACT OF 2021 - SPONSOR: REP. SCHRADER, KURT [D-OR-5] (INTRODUCED 02/04/2021) COSPONSORS: (39)**

Summary: This bill allows the use of hemp, cannabidiol (i.e., CBD) derived from hemp, or any other ingredient derived from hemp in a dietary supplement, provided that the supplement meets other applicable requirements. (Currently, the Food and Drug Administration's position is that CBD products may not be sold as dietary supplements.)

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Support

**H.R.6134: CBD PRODUCT SAFETY AND STANDARDIZATION ACT OF 2021 - SPONSOR: REP. RICE, KATHLEEN M. [D-NY-4] (INTRODUCED 12/02/2021) COSPONSOR: (8)**

Summary: To authorize the regulation of interstate commerce with respect to food containing cannabidiol derived from hemp, and for other purposes. The legislation aims to establish federal standards for CBD food and beverage products to protect consumers and provide marketplace stability for farmers, producers and retailers.

Minorities for Medical Marijuana position on this legislation - Support



CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

# 51ST ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

September 28-October 1  
**Washington, D.C.**

THEME **ADVANCING OUR PURPOSE. ELEVATING OUR POWER**

**M4MM Event Overview**



**THE NATION'S LEADING POLICY CONFERENCE**

**Event 1**

DC Community Outreach and Education:MMJ Card Self Certification Neighborhood Canvassing Protect

Sponsor



**Event 2**

Legislative Meetings with House and Senate Members September 28-29th

Sponsor



**Event 3**

M4MM 2022 ALC Cannabis Policy Reform Brief "Cannabis Legalization: Policy Reform And Economic Priorities From a Black Perspective"

Sponsor



**Event 4**

Celebrating the Spirit and Power of Supplier Diversity Initiatives in Cannabis-Networking Reception and Fireside Chat with Dr. Benjamin Chavis Jr. September 29th

Sponsor



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Community Partner



## **M4MM POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRIORITIES**

### **M4MM RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CURRENT PACKAGE OF FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE BILLS:**

#### **CODIFY DEPOSIT BANKING OF FEDERAL TAX PROCEEDS IN MINORITY DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS (MDI) AND ENCOURAGE CANNABIS RELATED BUSINESSES TO ESTABLISH BANKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH MDI'S**

Depository relationship for Opportunity Trust Funds into Minority Financial Institutions - Add language to direct the Treasury Department & Federal Reserve to engage Minority Depository Institutions to establish unique depository institution service for 45% of Cannabis tax receipts and appropriations allocations as identified in SEC. 9512 for the expressed purpose of strengthening the balance sheet and intra-banking lending for MDI's to expand their banking portfolio of services to underserved and disproportionately impacted communities. Add language to tie depository percentages to African American, Latino American, Asian American, Native American & Multi-Racial American MDI Banks. Add this to any related omnibus legalization, CAO Act, MORE Act, States Reform Act.

#### **PROPOSED RULE CHANGE TO DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY FEBRUARY 14, 2014 BSA EXPECTATIONS REGARDING MARIJUANA-RELATED BUSINESSES (MRB) GUIDANCE MEMO, FIN-2014-G001**

Understanding the difficult path for passage of the Safe Banking Act in the Senate, M4MM is also seeking to introduce language to the Department of Treasury to provide regulatory cost support, facility support for lending activities and streamlining reporting requirements for banking in States that have legalized Medical and/or Adult-Use Marijuana for Minority Depository Institutions (MDI's) and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI's) to provide banking services to Marijuana-Related businesses in their States and expand to other states for the purposes of providing banking services to Marijuana-Related businesses through amending the following Treasury and FDIC guidance's:

- Department of Treasury February 14, 2014 BSA Expectations Regarding Marijuana-Related Businesses (MRB) guidance memo, FIN-2014-G001
- The FDIC Statement on Providing Banking Services - Financial Institution Letters (FIL) -5-2015 (January 28, 2015) and
- Guidance Clarification from Department of Treasury's FinCEN Division— Updating Marijuana Limited SAR's for MRB's - June 27, 2018.

## **II. STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM**

**STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAMMING IN CANNABIS LEGALIZATION LEGISLATION - SOCIAL EQUITY PROGRAMS AS WELL AS PRISONER RE-ENTRY TO EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS. CREATE A PIPELINE TO BE FUNNELED INTO EMPLOYMENT AND OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.**

- Social Equity Employment to Ownership (SEEO) - programming for social equity individuals who lack direct financial and professional operational experience to start a licensed business. but meet a multitude of key Social Equity and social economic criteria as an eligible employee to ownership candidate
- Prisoner Re-Entry to Employment Program (PREEP) - Establishment of direct training and placement programs for persons soon to be returning from the Corrections System (six months to release) and those in Prison Re-Entry programming with in-facility Horticultural Certificate training for and hiring placement

### III. HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS WITH MINORITY COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES FOR CANNABIS RESEARCH

HBCU partnerships via renewable energy projects with rural farmers (Can include Hemp).

- Integrate Medical Cannabis licensees into the research funding opportunities by incentivizing partnerships between licensees and research universities and/or have Clinical Registrant licenses
- Enter research partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and institutions such as Hispanic-serving institutions, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions, and other Minority-Serving Institutions for Medical Cannabis research studies
- Entrepreneurial licensing incubator programs – establish statutory language to provide for training for social equity, racial minority, socio-economic disadvantaged licensees on the operational functions of running a successful Commercial Marijuana and Hemp licensed business and existing for social equity, racial minority, socio-economic disadvantaged Commercial Marijuana and Hemp licensees who need additional business, operational and financial management training to increase their business management capacity with qualifying educational institutions, primary programming should be contracted with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and institutions such as Hispanic-serving institutions (HSIs), Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions (AANAPISIs), and other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs).

### MEDICAL MARIJUANA RESEARCH

We are supportive of more Medical research and more access to Medical Marijuana for veterans. We would like to modify the Medical Marijuana existing bills

Codify and earmark through appropriations funding, a specific percentage of tax revenue generated from Marijuana sales and licensing fees for Marijuana research directed studies to measure how Medical Marijuana products impact various health illnesses and improves health disparities and conditions that disproportionately impact communities of color and Indigenous population.

## **IV. EXPUNGEMENT & FEDERAL-STATE PARTNERING TO REFORM EXPUNGEMENT LAWS FOR THE 12 PROHIBITION STATES & THE 19 MEDICAL CANNABIS ONLY STATES:**

**Rep. David Trone's Fresh Start Act, HR 5651** – M4MM is supportive of this bill, which provides competitive funding support to States that are beginning an expungement program or serves as an encouragement to establish an expungement program, with support of the Federal government and provide

### **OTHER CANNABIS STATUTORY RELATED PRIORITIES:**

#### **Tribal nations freedom to legalize Cannabis Independent of State regulations**

M4MM is working with Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) on the issue of Tribal nation sovereignty and legalizing Commercial and personal use Cannabis within their boundaries. In addition to working through the Department of Justice to create a rule similar to the Cole Amendment, M4MM believes there's a path for a Department of Interior administrative guidance similar to Department of Treasury and FDIC's Marijuana-related business banking FinCen guidelines rules

#### **Advertising**

SAFE Advertising Act of 2022 S.4622 - Legislation to protect broadcasters from penalty and provide advertising services on-air for Cannabis Companies, which opens up advertising opportunities for Black and Minority Media organizations with the Cannabis Industry.

#### **VA Benefits**

Supporting Congresswoman Katherine Clark's (D-MA) amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act to prohibit the VA from denying constituents. Her amendment would as a stand-alone bill, would implement a prohibition of VA home loan denials based upon employment in Marijuana related businesses.

## **VII. COMMERCIAL HEMP POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE RULES: ADD LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS TO THE NEXT FARM BILL, TO STRENGTHEN THE STATUTORY STRUCTURE FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRODUCTION:**

- Investment in Hemp Fiber processing equipment development and production to increase the Producer licensees and increase marketable and exportable products for Hemp farmers.
- Economic development vehicles via Hemp Producer licenses, opportunity zones and urban development
- Crop Insurance reform legislation and State implementation of Hemp programs – making it more accessible and cost effective to the minority farmers.
- Increase access for Hemp in the USDA BioPreferred® Program designates categories for federal purchasing as well as identifies certification categories for the voluntary labeling initiative. Unique biobased content minimums have been established as part of the process of designating categories for federal purchasing preference. Categories that only fall under the voluntary labeling initiative have a minimum biobased content of 25%.

- Propose statutory language in TITLE VII — Research, TITLE X — Horticulture and TITLE XI — Crop Insurance of the 2023 Farm Bill to expand Federal support for Industrial Hemp product development.

### **INFLATION REDUCTION ACT - ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT INFORMATION PROGRAM**

This program provides \$250 million to support the development and enhanced standardization and transparency of environmental product declaration for construction materials and products. M4MM will work to include Hemp based Construction and building materials as an eligible material for inclusion in the Environmental Product Information Program.

### **ADD CLEAR LANGUAGE TO MAKE HEMP FARMERS AND AGRIBUSINESSES ELIGIBLE FOR GRANTS, LOANS AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS THROUGH THE USDA**

Diversification of renewable energy sources that farmers can access (we need to get New Energy loan program, reef program and 9003 program are funding opportunities for farmers to get financial assistance to implement clean energy technologies into their farming businesses).

Specialty crop block grant program focus (need to see if this applies for Hemp and if the block grant program works like Community Development Block Grants). program performance metrics, effectiveness of the programs

Incentives for climate change technology migration by Farmers. She wants to focus on the Title II section of the 2023 Farm Bill and how funding and land leasing programs can be expanded to help minority and economically disadvantaged farmers

- **THE REMOVAL OF THE BAN AGAINST CONVICTED FELONS FROM OWNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION IN STATE/FEDERAL INDUSTRIAL HEMP LICENSING PROGRAMS.**

Prison Re-opportunity to Employment and Ownership in Hemp for those with expunged Non Violent felony marijuana related offenses, with Marijuana related non-expunged/Non Violent Felony & Misdemeanor convictions and expunged Non Violent Felony & Misdemeanor convictions to have a path to employment and licensing in the Hemp Industry. This would be in conjunction with reforming the 2018 Farm Bill 10 year ban for persons with felony and/or drug related (including Marijuana) convictions from being employed or becoming licensees in the Hemp Industry

- **REMEDICATION FOR COMMERCIAL PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT (REPURPOSING HEMP TESTING ABOVE THE 0.3 THC LEVEL AFTER REMEDIATION FOR COMMERCIAL PRODUCT MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT, BIO-MASS CONVERSION AND ENERGY PRODUCTION)**

- THC Content for hemp in the farming sector. The remediation structure is there under current farm bill. We want to see the ability to have the “hot crops” (those testing about the 0.3% THC level) be repurposed and only be used for industrial products development (so farmers don’t have to waste a full growing season on Hemp products and not have a viable commercial market for revenue generation).
- Create new statutory language and regulatory guidance to bring order to the application of Delta product variants. Delta 8, Delta 9, Delta 10 and compliance with the Controlled Substance act

- **HEMP AS CROP FOR TOXIC LAND SITE REMEDIATION**

Add statutory language via the 2023 Farm Bill and Environmental Protection Agency regulatory rule Hemp for use via the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund Redevelopment Program Ecological reuse, ecosystem services (ES), Green Remediation, Revegetating Landfills and Waste Containment Areas as a plant crop that can be incorporated into site remediation plans for Superfund sites because it provides habitat for wildlife and is not considered beautification or enhancement. This can be a dual opportunity for Hemp farmers to become contractors with the EPA to plant and manage the Revegetation remediation projects and then repurpose the Hemp harvest for Industrial Product development



Social economics is the science that includes occupation, education, income, wealth, and where someone lives. Social economics is a branch of economics—and social science—that focuses on the relationship between social behavior and economics. We can utilize social economics in history, current events, politics, and other social sciences to predict social trends that could potentially impact the economy and communities. Here we have laid out comprehensive initiatives to serve as a blueprint for Social Equity and beyond.

## **MINORITY-OWNED BANKS**

Minority-owned banks lack the assets needed to compete against major players. Banks embodied the same struggles as the communities they serve. The competition for cash amongst banks is brutal.

Deposits are a crucial and very cheap source of funding for banks, which make money by lending to their customers at higher rates than their cost of funding. The name of the game is to keep “deposit costs” down while attracting enough deposits to lend out. This issue can be addressed by more minority banks offering banking to Cannabis Companies.

It is essential that banks have enough capital to support their operations and projected growth. Each state has its requirements for starting and obtaining a charter bank. To meet state-chartered compliance for deposits from Cannabis Companies, we recommend that federal funding be provided to aid in assisting in meeting compliance and regulatory standards to accept Cannabis Company deposits. Funds are also being requested to educate staff.

## **SUPPLIER DIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANCILLARY COMPANIES**

Some of the fastest growing sectors in the Cannabis Industry are ancillary. As we review social economics, it is imperative to recognize the low-cost entry cost and lack of licensing requirements to obtain a non-touch business. We recommend supplier diversity initiatives.

Supplier diversity is a proactive business program encouraging the process of sourcing supplies from minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned, LGBT-owned, service-disabled veteran-owned, historically underutilized businesses. In addition to being a great business practice supplier diversity offers several benefits including:

- Promoting Innovation
- Providing Multiple Procurement Channels for Goods and Services.
- Drive-Up Competition, Driving Down Prices
- Display your Company's Interest in and Commitment to the Economic Growth of Your Community
- Gain Access to a Whole Different Network.

There are many ways in which licensees can spend money with diverse suppliers within the cannabis supply chain, including, but not limited to, legal, accounting, real estate, architect, interior designer, security, insurance, marketing, packaging, and printing.

We support state and regulatory initiatives that offer metrics for companies adding supplier diversity to their corporate spending plans during the licensing process. In order to promote and encourage participation in the cannabis industry by people from communities that have been disproportionately impacted by marijuana prohibition and enforcement and to positively impact those communities, Minorities 4 Medical Marijuana encourages licensees to be proactive in their diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

Joint Ventures can help companies test the waters and minimize the risk of seeking opportunities for new investments. Joint venture partnerships usually require both parties to contribute a certain amount of funds, assets, and other resources for operations, projects, and/or campaigns, depending on the terms of the arrangement. Aside from aiding in Social Equity, joint ventures offer several benefits:

- Saves on operating cost
- Companies can gain knowledge in additional areas of business
- Provides entry into new markets
- Promotes Collaboration over Competition
- Offers low-cost business growth and expansion
- Boost credibility

## **EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP**

It should be the goal of every organization to develop their team to do their work and perform their tasks from an owner's perspective. When team members lead their departments and complete their projects as if they were the owner of the company, the company positions itself to become a market leader.

Employee-owners Programs promote the treatment of business as a priority and its interests with the highest level of stewardship, which helps drive profitability. Creating a clear pathway where employees can learn the business and obtain an opportunity to entrepreneur is a Win/Win Solution for all stakeholders. This pathway presents a strong probability of success with new ventures, expansion, and growth.

We also support Employee Ownership Trust, the employees benefit financially by receiving a share of the company's annual profits, rather than by owning an asset that changes in value based on an annual valuation. One of the major benefits of this structure is its flexibility for companies that want to design the trust to fit their specific goals.

## **CONCLUSION**

Minorities 4 Medical Marijuana seeks to evolve the Social Equity conversation to include tangible pathways that address social economics in hopes to bridge the generational wealth gap. We understand the importance of addressing the needs of the underserved in the Cannabis Space and leveraging our community awareness to adopt practices that will create a profound impact on our community.



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