



American Council of Cannabis Medicine

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Council of Cannabis Medicine Launches Tennessee Medical Cannabis Task Force

Landmark Initiative Aims to Make Tennessee the First State to Adopt Comprehensive Medical Cannabis Legislation in the Post-Schedule III Era

Washington, D.C.— October 12, 2026 — The American Council of Cannabis Medicine (ACCM) today announced the formation of its Tennessee Medical Cannabis Task Force, a statewide initiative dedicated to developing and passing comprehensive legislation legalizing medical cannabis in Tennessee.

The initiative seeks to position Tennessee as a national leader in medical cannabis policy, potentially becoming the first state to enact comprehensive medical cannabis legislation in the emerging post-Schedule III environment.

The Task Force will build upon past legalization successes, and leading medical cannabis programs across the country, incorporating proven practices while establishing new standards emphasizing patient access, physician participation, product safety, affordability, and integration into mainstream healthcare.

Building Landmark Patient-First Legislation

"Tennessee has an extraordinary opportunity to lead the nation into the next generation of medical cannabis policy," said Doug Benms, ACCM Leadership Committee Chair. "We are not interested in simply creating another medical cannabis program. We intend to bring together the best practices from across the country, improve upon what has worked, and create a truly patient-first model. Our objective is legislation that makes medical cannabis an accepted, accessible, and responsible mainstream therapeutic option for Tennessee patients."

The Task Force will address patient eligibility, physician involvement, cultivation and production standards, dispensary operations, insurance integration, research, affordability, and regulatory oversight.

Unprecedented Stakeholder Engagement

ACCM intends to assemble one of the broadest stakeholder coalitions ever engaged in developing state medical cannabis legislation.

Participation will include physicians, researchers, patients, caregivers, healthcare organizations, hospitals, pharmacists, cultivators, processors, dispensary operators, insurers, veterans' organizations, policymakers, and patient advocates.

PRESS RELEASE

Dr. Annabelle Morgan, ACCM Research Committee Co-Chair and Tennessee resident, emphasized the importance of medical science and patient protections.

"As a scientist and Tennessee resident, I believe we have an important responsibility to build a program grounded in credible research, responsible physician participation, and meaningful patient protections," said **Dr. Morgan**. "Medical cannabis must be approached as a legitimate therapeutic option within the broader healthcare system. Our goal is to create a framework that supports physicians, protects patients, and advances mainstream medical acceptance."

Establishing National Standards

Tim Rogge, ACCM Production Committee Co-Chair and Tennessee resident, highlighted the opportunity to establish nationally recognized production standards.

"Tennessee can establish a medical cannabis system built on quality, accountability, and patient confidence from day one," said **Rogge**. "By incorporating proven cultivation, processing, testing, and distribution standards, we can create a dependable medical supply chain that protects patients while supporting a responsible Tennessee medical cannabis industry."

National Medical Cannabis Day — Nashville

ACCM will feature the legislative initiative during National Medical Cannabis Day, part of Healthy America 2026 — The Rhythm of Health Freedom, November 12–14, 2026, in Nashville.

The featured session, "Tennessee: The First Post-Schedule III State," will bring together medical professionals, policy experts, and industry leaders to review the proposed legislative framework and implementation strategy.

Open Invitation to Participate

ACCM is actively soliciting participation, recommendations, and input from Tennessee residents, industry stakeholders, healthcare professionals, and organizations nationwide.

The goal is clear: establish Tennessee as a national model for responsible, accessible, patient-first medical cannabis legislation.

About ACCM

The American Council of Cannabis Medicine, was founded in 2016 as a Capitol Hill working group, ACCM is the leading national organization advancing medical cannabis integration into mainstream healthcare, representing medical cannabis retailers, cultivators, agra producers, supporting healthcare professionals, researchers, insurers, patient advocates and wellness providers. ACCM works to expand safe, effective and equitable access through policy advancement, physician engagement and patient advocacy.

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