

WRCL Briefing Pack



A concise overview for congressional staff, regulators, partner organizations, and media.

Staff Briefings • Audience: Public / Staff / Partner • Draft v2.1 • whole-plant framework

What this resource does: *Provides a quick, staff-ready overview of WRCL's mission, why half measures fall short, and the minimum federal framework needed for a lawful whole-plant economy.*

Who we are

Women for Responsible Cannabis Legalization (WRCL) is a women-led, inclusive coalition working to establish a fully legal, all-encompassing Cannabis economy in the United States. WRCL's approach is straightforward: legalize the plant, develop the federal framework, and align international treaties.

The problem we are solving

- Federal law still classifies one plant into conflicting legal categories.
- This fragmentation causes conflicts among adult-use markets, medical access, and hemp policy.
- The same fragmentation leaves interstate commerce, banking, cards, and coverage pathways underdeveloped.
- Ignoring the treaty issue creates predictable legal and diplomatic risks.

What WRCL is asking policymakers to do

- Remove restrictions on Cannabis and naturally occurring cannabinoids.
- Replace the hemp/marijuana distinction with a federal framework that treats the entire plant based on its intended use and product risk.
- Establish standard commercial infrastructure: interstate trade, tax and trade administration, banking, and payment systems.
- Create clear pathways for medical use and research, including strategies for coverage and reimbursement.
- Integrate repair and social equity considerations into the framework from the beginning, rather than as an afterthought.
- Add a treaty-alignment title or similar legal requirement to ensure the State Department and partner agencies develop an inter se pathway.

Why WRCL does not treat half measures as success

- Partial federal changes alone do not establish a typical legal market.
- Medical patients still need a clear pathway to legality, access, and coverage.
- Hemp operators still require a stable national framework for industrial use and cannabinoid products.
- States still need a federal baseline for standards, commerce, and enforcement.
- Congress still requires a treaty solution if the goal is adult-use legalization.

How the whole-plant framework works

Lane	What belongs there	Core federal jobs
Adult-use	Adults can legally enjoy intoxicating consumer products.	Age restrictions, testing, labeling, marketing restrictions, trade regulations, taxes, and enforcement.
Medical	Therapeutic products, access to clinical care, physician-supervised use, and coverage strategies.	Research rules, product categories, claims, quality standards, and coverage pathways.
Hemp	Industrial fiber, seed, grain, food, feed, biomaterials, and non-intoxicating uses.	Cultivation regulations, agricultural and manufacturing practices, and distinctions for finished products.

What readers can do next

- Request a staff briefing or collaborative discussion.
- Review the federal implementation request and the comprehensive plant framework memo.
- Help test the hemp, medical, finance, or treaty pathways.
- Connect WRCL with experts who can enhance the framework.

Selected source basis

FDA regulation of Cannabis and cannabis-derived products — Current FDA baseline for THC/CBD in foods, supplements, cosmetics, and approved drugs. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-regulation-cannabis-and-cannabis-derived-products-including-cannabidiol-cbd>

USDA hemp program overview — Current USDA cultivation, sampling, testing, and licensing baseline. <https://www.usda.gov/farming-and-ranching/plants-and-crops/plant-breeding/hemp>

CANNRA: Considerations for federal hemp regulation — State-regulator view on hemp-derived cannabinoid gaps and needed federal floor standards. <https://www.cann-ra.org/s/Considerations-for-Federal-Hemp-Regulation-April-2023.pdf>

Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended — Treaty baseline, including Article 28(2) industrial-hemp carveout. <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%20976/volume-976-I-14152-English.pdf>

Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, Article 41 — Primary legal basis for an inter se modification strategy. https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/1_1_1969.pdf

Strategies 64: The One-Plant Solution — Recent whole-plant framework proposal and useful strategic comparator. <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/c3867b8d-9e34-48c6-9bda-231afbb4b7b9/downloads/911e85c7-e17d-44f9-9222-36918fa14adb/the-one-plant-solution.pdf?ver=1770546959970>