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FRANKFORT, Ky. — Following tradition, cannabis advocates from around the state are organizing on April 20th to create awareness around cannabis reform in Kentucky.

Advocacy groups including [Kentucky Cannabis Freedom Coalition \(KCFC\)](#), [the Kentucky state chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws \(Kentucky NORML\)](#), [Minorities for Medical Marijuana KY \(M4MM-KY\)](#), [American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky \(ACLU-KY\)](#), [Americans for Prosperity Kentucky](#), and [Law Enforcement Action Partnership \(L.E.A.P.\)](#) have organized a press event at the Kentucky Capitol Rotunda at 12 noon ET at 702 Capitol Ave. in Frankfort.

On the topic of decriminalization and equitable legalization for social justice, several speakers will be featured.

ACLU of Kentucky said that “although our organizations have different missions, we are united in the cause to de-criminalize cannabis. Because of outdated and ill-enforced laws, thousands of Kentuckians have lost time and opportunities due to criminal convictions, and thousands more have suffered needlessly because Kentucky blocks cannabis’ medicinal use. It is past time for the commonwealth to join the 36 other states that have removed most if not all of these barriers, which is why we are proud to add our name to those supporting Rep. Nima Kulkarni’s legislation.”

Patrick Dunegan, director of Kentucky Cannabis Freedom Coalition, said his organization fully supports Rep. Kulkarni’s bills and her “efforts on changing the cannabis law here in Kentucky. This is a freedom and social issue in our state. Representative Kulkarni, we applaud you! We encourage everyone to support these bills.”

Mike Conway, state director for Americans for Prosperity-Kentucky, said, “We applaud Rep. Kulkarni for introducing bills that would move Kentucky away from the harmful policies that have criminalized the use and possession of marijuana. Criminal enforcement of marijuana possession has unnecessarily brought thousands of Kentuckians into the criminal justice system while diverting law enforcement resources away from public safety priorities such as violent crime reduction.”

Matthew Bratcher, Executive Director for Kentucky's Official State Chapter for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), said his organization “commends Representative Kulkarni in her efforts to reform the cannabis possession laws in our commonwealth, and we encourage other legislators from both sides of the aisle to join her in making a difference in the lives of many of Kentuckians.”

C.J. Carter, Kentucky State Director for Minorities for Medical Marijuana, said, “We’re at the precipice of the opening of the cannabis industry here in Kentucky. This is indeed a dangerous moment in time for Black and Brown people. There’s a new multi-billion dollar industry that will soon open on both the Federal and State level while simultaneously, people who look like me remain criminalized behind bars and are once again being left out of the conversation. We now have the opportunity to write a different narrative in Kentucky that would benefit us first and foremost. The State of Kentucky and its history as it relates to cannabis owes a tremendous debt to the Black Community and that starts with this legislation that is being introduced by Rep. Kulkarni.”

The hosting organizations encourage Kentuckians who support legal cannabis to call the legislative hotline at 1-800-372-7181. Callers must provide their name and zip code and are able to leave a message for lawmakers in support of cannabis reform.