

Center for American Progress Action Fund



To: Members of Congress
From: Center for American Progress Action Fund
CAPAF: Urges a YES vote on H.R. 3884 the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act
Date: Thursday, December 2, 2020

Tomorrow, the House of Representatives will take a historic vote to decriminalize marijuana and correct the historical harms of the War on Drugs which have disproportionately harmed communities of color and low-income communities. The Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement (MORE) Act ends the federal marijuana prohibition while still allowing states to keep their current marijuana policies on the books. In addition to decriminalizing, the MORE Act takes a restorative approach by expunging marijuana convictions, facilitate resentencing, and reinvest in communities most adversely impacted by the War on Drugs.

The Center for American Progress Action Fund urges you to vote in favor of the MORE Act and vote NO on the motion to recommit. The MORE Act builds off broad support for legalization, with new ballot measures approved across the US and a majority of states decriminalizing marijuana usage:

- Support for legalization of marijuana has steadily increased, a recent [Gallup poll](#) conducted in October and September of 2020 found 68% of Americans support legalization.
- [33 states and the District of Columbia](#) have already decriminalized the substance.
- [7 in 10 American voters](#) who supported decriminalizing the use of marijuana in the last election cycle
- Five states—Arizona, New Jersey, South Dakota, Mississippi, and Montana—that [approved ballot measures to decriminalize marijuana usage](#), either for medicinal or recreational purpose.

[The Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement \(MORE\)](#) Act is a comprehensive federal marijuana measure, that would not only legalize marijuana, but would also clear marijuana records, ensure a right to public benefits regardless of a marijuana conviction, and use tax revenue to support communities impacted by the War on Drugs. If signed into law, this comprehensive measure would:

- Legalize marijuana at the federal level by descheduling cannabis from the Controlled Substances Act.
- Require courts to clear prior marijuana-related convictions from an individual's criminal record and resentence individuals who are still completing their sentence for a marijuana-related offense.
- Use tax revenue from marijuana businesses to fund programs such as employment programs, reentry services, and substance abuse programs for communities most impacted by the War on Drugs.
- Ensure no one is denied public benefits because of a marijuana-related conviction.

The Center for American Progress Action Fund urges you to vote in favor of the MORE Act and vote NO on the motion to recommit. If you have any questions, please contact Lia Parada in our Government Affairs office at lparada@americanprogress.org