



We believe state and federal
medical marijuana laws
should work in harmony.

We exist to make that happen.

In 24 states some form of medical marijuana is legal, but the current federal law still contradicts all state laws when it comes to the Schedule 1 substance. This inconsistency in state and federal laws mean citizens must choose which law to obey – and the choice, to disobey one law while obeying another undermines the rule of law. It corrodes the idea that voluntary compliance with the law is a good and necessary thing for civil society. It also teaches the citizenry that it's acceptable to break one version of the law.

Federal marijuana laws should be harmonized with local or state law or, the federal law should be enforced uniformly so that citizens will not be obeying one law while breaking another law with impunity.

At the [Harmonious Code Council](#) (HCC), we understand the importance of garnering bipartisan support on a single, standalone cannabis bill, which would create a legislative vehicle to exploit the middle ground legislatively and politically. Our solution to this murky, gray area is to introduce legislation that would simply remove marijuana from the controlled substance list in those jurisdictions that have voted to allow it. Should the status change with any state, the controlled substance list would be automatically amended without the need for a new vote in Congress each time a state decides to legalize medical marijuana.



An important factor in our strategy is the ability for states to opt-out. It allows those who are at “no” on medical marijuana to continue their opposition and not use the federal law to allow medical marijuana in their state, but continue their state’s prohibition on medical marijuana. It also allows legal cannabis businesses access to banking, insurance, and avoid felony charges from the federal level.

Once money comes into the banking system of a state that medical marijuana is descheduled or re-scheduled, the funds can legally move throughout the national and international banking system without threat of rejection or seizure. This has obvious implications for inter-state commerce, and for those in the medical marijuana industry paying national or global companies for services.

As a non-profit, HCC is first seeking to gain the backing of a Republican and a Democrat in Congress to introduce our legislation. Once the bill is introduced, reports, focus groups, public relations, and grassroots efforts can be funded.

Our team includes: The founding board members are Shannon Doyle, J. Kevin McKechnie, and Dan Perrin. Our attorney is Alan Dye of Webster, Chamberlain and Bean, of Washington, D.C. and is one of the top non-profit attorneys in the United States.

Colorado Doctors Suspended Over Patient Plant Counts

In other cannabis news, four Colorado doctors have been arrested in an unprecedented action against marijuana-prescribing healthcare professionals. They are being questioned by the Colorado state Medical Board for the number of plants they were recommending their patients grow; some plant counts were found to be as high as 75 plants per person. The standard for medical marijuana is only six plants.

“This has nothing to do with medicine,” said an attorney to one of the doctors to the [Denver Post](#), “This suspension has nothing to do with facts and nothing to do with the law. It’s all about politics.”



According to Colorado state law, medical marijuana patients can grow up to six plants. However, doctors are permitted to increase the number of plants if “medically necessary.” Currently, there are 106,066 licensed patients, and 86 percent of them were prescribed six cannabis plants or less, according to the state [Health Department](#).

Policymakers worry a high plant count could lead to black market sales, marijuana patients and doctors refute that reasoning. Instead, citing that first-time growers need the extra plant count in case a harvest fails, or a tolerance develops, rendering small amounts of medicine insufficient. For a complete list of the suspended doctors, click [here](#).

Microsoft, Latest Tech Giant to Enter the Cannabis Business Arena

In a valiant effort to throw their support behind the plant and make cannabis more mainstream, technology juggernaut Microsoft announced a partnership to create their version of a seed-to-sale tracking software.

With pleasing projections for the marijuana market, it’s not hard to see why bigger, more established companies are trying to get their foot into the niche industry. Legal market sales are projected to surpass \$22 billion by the year 2020, according to an industry analysis from ArcView and New Frontier. The data reveals that cannabis is one of the fastest growing industries in America.

Kimberly Nelson, executive director of state and local government solutions at Microsoft told [the New York Times](#), “As the industry is regulated, there will be more transactions, and we believe there will be more sophisticated requirements and tools down the road.”

Microsoft’s partner is a California startup called [Kind](#). They came up with the software, and Microsoft will be working with their least-controversial division – the state and government relations department, to help them market it.

Microsoft isn’t ready to dive into the cannabis world, especially with the banking restrictions and its federally illegal status under the Controlled Substances Act. But some industry insiders say it’s encouraging that a big name like Microsoft is getting its feet wet in the green space.

DEA Won't Be Making a Rescheduling Announcement in 2016

Despite rumors and news outlets like the *Santa Monica Observer* claiming the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) plans on rescheduling cannabis this summer – the plant that is medicine to thousands of people in America remains on the banned list of Controlled Substances. A source familiar with the indecision told [Westword](#) magazine that for the rest of 2016, it looks like cannabis will remain among the ranks of Heroin in the Schedule 1 category.

By definition, a Schedule 1 drug is "the most dangerous drugs of all the drug schedules with potentially severe psychological or physical dependence" and has no medical benefits in the eyes of the federal law, and it's the biggest barrier for researchers trying to study the effects of medical marijuana.

[The Santa Monica Observer](#) caused a ruckus in the cannabis community with breaking news that an unnamed "a DEA attorney" wrongfully confirmed that the plant would be moved to a Schedule 2 substance on August 1. The beginning of the month has since passed, and their prediction has yet to come to fruition. Schedule two would move medical marijuana to a class of drugs available in all 50 states, with a doctor's prescription.

Another online site, [ANewDomain](#), added that another DEA official wouldn't confirm or deny the reclassification. But the plant makes the issue very 'complicated'. The official, DEA staff coordinator Russ Baer, told ANewDomain that while Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and Cannabidiol (CBD) are two main compounds found in the marijuana plant, even those are very unique. "Also, we are talking about synthetic THC, CBD, oils, and edibles, he added, the challenge for researchers and government agencies is to "identify the parts of the plant that might have benefit, and separating out (the beneficial) parts from the ones that "aren't beneficial or harmful."

Marijuana just isn't a priority for a government agency with limited resources. Baer points to the opioid epidemic facing the country right now. "Marijuana is important, but our efforts are mainly focused on the nation's growing opioid crisis," he said. "We're focusing on fentanyl, fentanyl compounds and on preventing the deaths caused by opioid addiction."

DEA administrator, Chuck Rosenberg, has previously gone on the record saying marijuana it's "definitely more dangerous than heroin." It's a sign of progress, considering his 2015 remarks that cannabis is "probably not" as dangerous as the deadly opiate.



BREAKING: National Conference of State Legislators Vote to Reschedule Marijuana

By Chloe Sommers

The National Conference of State Legislators just voted to remove cannabis from its Schedule 1 status of the Controlled Substances Act, the Marijuana Policy Project confirms to The Marijuana Times.

Today's vote was only a committee vote. The full vote is slated for Thursday.

"Their vote has no force of law on the state or federal level" said Hill lobbyist Dan Perrin, founder of the [Harmonious Code Council](#). "They do, however, issue model legislation for states to adopt so that state laws will be consistent from state to state, and I do expect them to that for this issue."

The NCSL doesn't take a stance on the issue on its website, instead, offering primary sources analyzing the topic from The Brookings Institute, the SCOTUS Blog, and Pew Research polls.

In a sidebar on their '[deep dive](#)' into marijuana policy NCSL writes, "Marijuana is a Schedule I drug under federal law. It is defined as dangerous, has no currently accepted medical use and has a high potential for abuse. This complicates taxation, banking and other areas regulated by federal laws."



The NCSL is caught between a rock and a hard place, as state legislators they have to answer to both their constituents and the federal government – which, at the moment, are at odds with one another over the plant.

The Harmonious Code Council is seeking to pass legislation to allow state marijuana law to exist in harmony with federal law. If passed, their efforts could result in the legalization of medical marijuana in the states that have voted to do so, freeing patients and providers from the fear of federal prosecution – while having an explicit 'opt out' option for states that do not wish to participate.

"Their vote has no force of law on the state or federal level, but reflects a consensus at the state legislator level consistent with our position," said Perrin.

The Marijuana Policy Project tells The Marijuana Times to expect their comments on the vote later this week.

Clinton Sees Green at Nantucket Fundraiser, But No Talk of Cannabis

The numbers show Hillary Clinton out-fundraising The Donald 425.4 Million to Trump's 127.6 Million, and with 74% of her money raised through campaign donations, what better place to learn about how Clinton and her backers really feel about an issue that's important to so many voters this year – cannabis reform.

Quickly becoming one of the fastest growing industries in America, we did a little investigating at one of her fundraising events this past weekend in Massachusetts. The Nantucket money-maker had attendees paying upwards of \$2,000 a head, and The Harmonious Code Council (HCC) was there, on the ground, trying to get answers from Clinton supporters and the candidate herself on marijuana reform.

"Just about all of the people there were indifferent about the issue," said an HCC insider who was at the fundraiser. Our tipster sported a cap with a cannabis design on it to draw attention to the cause, with little success.

One woman did engage the Harmonious Code Council's political insider on drug policy, but she wasn't directly involved in this Clinton campaign. Instead, she had worked within Bill's administration years ago. The conversation fell flat as she explained to HCC that 'the issue isn't on anyone's radar.'



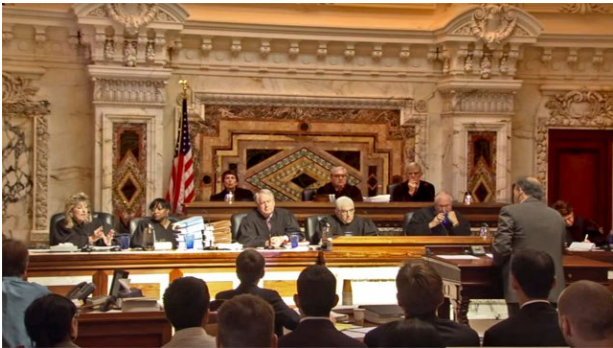
The event took place at the home of Elizabeth Frawley Bagley, a long-time top Democratic fundraiser who was the ambassador to Portugal under Bill Clinton. Titled 'Conversations with Hillary', our source says it was really a one-sided conversation she was having with herself.

“The lack of attention on an issue that’s so important to so many, especially in this election year – is to grossly neglect all the cannabis supporting voters whom she could be courting,” they explained.

It remains to be seen if Donald Trump’s camp sees this chink in Clinton’s armor. It would be to his advantage to steal the cannabis vote, including all the die-hard Bernie supporters come November.

State Cannabis Laws Rule

This summer, the federal appeals court ruled that the federal government made it clear that no individuals can be prosecuted in any medical marijuana cases if no state laws were broken. It’s a decision that provides more legal protections for the medical marijuana industry, while also highlighting the discrepancies between state and federal laws when it comes to cannabis.



The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco concluded that the Department of Justice must show proof that state laws were violated in up to ten separate cases in California and Washington State.

The Federal Prosecutors failed to persuade the three-judge panel that Congressional policies only stopped legal action against the states, not individuals who violate federal cannabis laws.

Judge Diarmuid O'Scannlain wrote for the panel that "If DOJ wishes to continue these prosecutions, Appellants are entitled

to evidentiary hearings to determine whether their conduct was completely authorized by state law, by which we mean that they strictly complied with all relevant conditions imposed by state law on the use, distribution, possession, and cultivation of medical marijuana.”

Currently, the plant is legal for medicinal or recreational use in 25 states and the District of Columbia. Another ten states have marijuana reforms on the November ballot.