

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Dan Perrin, President, Harmonious Code Council
DATE: September 4, 2016
RE: Federal Government conformity with state laws regarding legal medical marijuana

There is currently a huge disconnect between federal and state laws in states that have voted to allow the use of medical marijuana, giving Donald Trump a unique opportunity to win the votes of a group that does not typically vote Republican. Mr. Trump's support for federal law harmonization with state laws will appeal to the 54% of the general U.S. population, and the 71% of millennials that believe medical marijuana should be legal.

There are nine states with marijuana legislation on the November 8 ballot. By creating a more harmonious relationship between the federal and state laws, he will be helping the low-income and African-American communities that have seen too many lives ruined by prison time for petty drug crimes. Additionally, support for legal medical marijuana will help states raise tax revenue to work toward Mr. Trump's goals for better schools and improved law enforcement. Mr. Trump's support will not only appeal to most Americans' current beliefs but also allow him to draw a stark contrast to Hillary Clinton's "wait and see" and "more study is needed" position of her platform on this issue. She is betting these voters have no where else to go – Mr. Trump should give them that alternative.

Current Conflict Between State and Federal Laws Regarding Marijuana

Despite medical marijuana laws in 25 states, it is still illegal under federal law. The Federal Government does not recognize the difference between medical and recreational use of marijuana. Under federal law, marijuana is treated like every other controlled substance, such as cocaine and heroin. Marijuana is on the Schedule 1 drug list. Contrary to thousands of documented research projects, the Federal Government still views marijuana as having no medicinal value. Federal marijuana laws are very serious, and punishment for people found guilty is usually quite harsh. Under Federal law, it is illegal, for example, to sell a gun to someone with a medical marijuana card. Enforcement of federal laws causes great conflict when exercised in states that have passed medical marijuana legislation. The best solution at this time is to amend the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) to remove medical marijuana as a Schedule One drug in those states and jurisdictions that vote to make it legal. If Florida votes this November to allow medical marijuana, or decides later to re-institute their current

prohibition, the drug's status under the CSA would automatically change. This change would maintain the principle of federalism and would essentially codify current administrative practice at the Department of Justice.

Public Acceptance of Medical Marijuana Continues to Increase

This November nine states have marijuana legislation on the ballot. This aligns with a reported 54% of Americans that believe medical marijuana should be decriminalized. Additionally, ***surveys show that 63% of Republican millennials and 77% of Democrat millennials support medical marijuana use.*** Bernie Sanders strong support of states rights to allow marijuana use is credited, in part, for his popularity with young people.

In 2014, the swing state of Florida's medical marijuana vote was responsible for doubling the number of young voters from previous state elections. Trump needs to give them a reason to vote for him, not hand that increased turnout over to Hillary uncontested. The Florida vote failed by only 2%, inspiring a second chance this November with The Florida Medical Marijuana Legalization Initiative which will undoubtedly bring out, even more, young voters the second time around. The 2012 Colorado vote to legalize marijuana has been widely credited with bringing more men to the voting booth than women. Results in both of these states show the opportunity for Mr. Trump to shore up support with millennials and to bring out more men that are likely to support him over Hillary Clinton.

Low-Income and African-American Arrest Rates and Law Enforcement Costs

There is no question that the African-American community is the most affected by current drug laws. African-Americans are ten times more likely to go to prison than any other race, and 38.4% of them are in prison for nonviolent, drug-related crimes. One in nine black children has a parent in prison, compared to only one in 57 white children. Having a parent in prison negatively impacts all aspects of a child's life particularly their level of poverty and educational success. Family income drops an average of 22% when a parent is incarcerated. Additionally, 23 percent of children with incarcerated fathers are expelled or suspended, compared to four percent of children without.

Parents incarcerated for nonviolent drug crimes are partially responsible for dismal high school graduation rates, 74.6% for low-income and 72.5% for African-Americans. Considering Hillary Clinton's long history of taking campaign donations from private prisons, there is little motivation for her to work to reduce the number of African-

Americans being sent to prison. Mr. Trump's support of more reasonable drug laws could have a major impact on the African-American family.

Tax Revenue for Improved Schools, Drug Education and Reducing Prison Population

According to the Bureau of Prisons, 48.6% of federal prisoners are incarcerated due to drug charges. If the Federal Government made an amendment to bring the CSA in line with state laws, the number of people in our prisons would be greatly reduced and it would save the American taxpayer a huge sum of money. Each year the U.S. spends over \$465 million on drug arrests and another \$3.6 billion trying to enforce marijuana laws. This money can be better allocated to law enforcement for serious crimes, drug abuse prevention programs and improving the American education system.

Another benefit of allowing marijuana use is the increase in tax revenue. In 2014 Americans spent \$5.4 billion on legal marijuana. Colorado is projected to make \$140 million, and Washington is projected to make \$270 million in tax revenue in 2016. Both states have used the tax money to build new schools, fund drug abuse prevention and make improvements to law enforcement. The Tax Foundation estimates states with marijuana prohibition are losing over \$28 billion per year in tax revenue.

An amendment to the CSA would also permit marijuana businesses that operate legally in the states to also operate within the law on a federal level. This will allow the businesses to open bank accounts, provide employee benefits like health insurance, buy other insurance for their company and property, pay federal and state income and other taxes, and safely invest and use their money.