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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1102

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Dear Clifton,

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding this important, yet controversial issue. I appreciate hearing from you and knowing your thoughts on this important matter.

I have been fighting to decriminalize marijuana throughout my years in Congress, therefore I am on the House Cannabis Caucus. I have introduced two bipartisan marijuana bills with Rep. Don Young (R-AK) and other supporters.

HR 1588, the Ending the Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act of 2019, would remove marijuana from the Federal Controlled Substances list and allow states the freedom to regulate marijuana as they choose without federal interference.

In addition, HR 1587, the Marijuana Data Collection Act of 2019 would study the effects of State legalized and non-medical marijuana programs from a variety of perspectives, including state revenues, public health, substance abuse, and opioids, criminal justice, and employment.

Legalizing adult use of marijuana is common sense and long overdue. We need to remove marijuana from the list of federally controlled substances, stop turning everyday Americans into criminals, and pass real criminal justice reform now.

I am a proud cosponsor of H.R.1151, the Veterans Medical Marijuana Safe Harbor Act, which would allow veterans to use, possess, or transport medical marijuana and to discuss the use of medical marijuana with a physician of the Department of Veterans Affairs as authorized by a State or Indian Tribe.

I am also an original cosponsor of HR 3884, the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act of 2019 or simply the MORE Act, which seeks To decriminalize and deschedule cannabis, to provide for reinvestment in certain persons adversely impacted by the War on Drugs, and to provide for expungement of certain cannabis offenses.

Our archaic marijuana policies based on stigma and outdated myths have been used to wage a failed War on Drugs. Families have been torn apart, communities left fractured, over-criminalization and mass incarceration have become the norm. In 2017 alone, our country arrested over 600,000 people just for possession of marijuana. These bipartisan pieces of legislation take an important step toward ending the failed War on Drugs, ending the federal prohibition on marijuana, and ensuring that our policies are guided by facts and truth.

Thank you again for taking the time to express your views on this very important matter. Rest assured that I will always fight on behalf of the people of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

TULSI GABBARD
Member of Congress