

NORML[®] Chapter at Iowa State University

[DATE], 2021
The Honorable [FULL NAME OF REP]

Iowa State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear [Representative/Senator] [LAST NAME],

We are a coalition of registered Iowan voters, residents, or students – some of us are likely to be voting members in your district. We are writing you to encourage your support of legislation favoring progressive reformation of marijuana laws in Iowa.

Marijuana has been grown, cultivated, sold, and consumed for centuries – it is not new. 18 states have relegalized this consumer industry so far. Iowa has instead outsourced much of this industry to an illicit market that has no regard for public safety and public health, especially as it relates to our children.

The war on marijuana has failed. This racist drug war did not, and will not, keep marijuana out of kids' hands. A 2014 National Institute on Drug Abuse study showed that, despite cannabis' classification by the federal government as a Schedule I illegal substance, 34% of 10th graders had used cannabis – making the substance more prevalent among this age group than the highly regulated and legal tobacco industry (23%). However, a 2019 Center for Disease Control study showed that youth marijuana use **decreased** in states that legalized recreational marijuana. Protecting Iowa's youth and promoting public health and safety is paramount. We cannot continue to keep doing what we have done and expect a different result.

A tightly regulated marketplace for adult recreational marijuana use is a new and better approach. A proper Iowa legal cannabis marketplace should include strict regulations on the business of cultivation, distribution, taxation, and retail, a "seed-to-sale" tracking system, rigorous laboratory testing of the product, and strict packaging requirements that will better protect public safety. Creating a legal and tightly regulated recreational marijuana marketplace has massive public support. Iowa voters recognize that policies of the past have failed us, and 18 U.S. states have now approved this new approach.

A 2021 Iowa Poll found the majority of Iowans say they favor legalizing marijuana for recreational use. Further, an astounding 78% of Iowans support expansion of diseases and conditions covered by Iowa's limited medical marijuana program.

We encourage you to introduce and support legislation in next year's legislative session to legalize and regulate recreational marijuana cultivation and sales for adults in Iowa. Please let us know your position on Iowa marijuana law reformation in a response letter.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Constituents

On Behalf of The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws Chapter at Iowa State University

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at Iowa State University

ISU Student Activities Center, 1560 Memorial Union, East SOS | Ames, IA 50011