



VIA EMAIL

May 10, 2021

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Dear Senator and/or Representative:

Re: UFCW's Federal Cannabis Priorities in the 117th Congress

As the nation's largest union of workers in the cannabis industry, as well as the nation's largest private sector union, the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) represents over 1.3 million workers in the retail, food, and health care industries, I write to inform you of our cannabis related legislative priorities during the 117th Congress.

Forty-four states and the District of Columbia have legalized some form of recreational or medical cannabis, making it one of the fastest growing industries in the nation. Those who grow, process, distribute, and sell cannabis deserve a fair and safe workplace like any other worker in America. As Congress moves to legalize cannabis, policymakers must ensure that this new industry includes a diverse, skilled, and unionized workforce held to the highest possible labor standards.

With cannabis legalization comes a significant number of regulatory, social, and economic issues to consider. **UFCW supports cannabis legalization with protections for workers and strong social equity provisions.** UFCW's priorities in cannabis legalization include:

1. **Passage of the SAFE Banking Act of 2021** (H.R. 1996 / S. 910): Establishing federal regulations for the cannabis industry will take time. Until then cannabis workers need the personal and financial protections of this legislation.
2. **Good jobs:** Ensure that all cannabis jobs throughout the industry classify their workers as employees with the full rights and protections of the National Labor Relations Act and Fair Labor Standards Act, including the right to join a union and wage and hour protections.
3. **Respecting state and local laws:** Support existing cannabis businesses and their employees by protecting the current state and local cannabis regulatory framework.

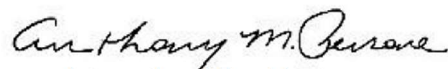
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4. **Training and apprenticeships:** Make cannabis industry apprenticeships eligible for federal funding, giving the industry a skilled and well-trained workforce with the opportunity for advancement.
5. **Health and safety for workers:** Protect cannabis workers from worksite hazards.
6. **Restorative justice:** Support the MORE Act (H.R. 3884 / S. 2227 in the 116th Congress) and its policies that address the impact cannabis criminalization has had on black and brown communities.

Addressing the social and racial inequities created by cannabis prohibition should be at the heart of any cannabis reform policy, and a part of the industry's framework. Ensuring that all jobs in the cannabis industry are safe, good-paying, and family sustaining jobs with the protections of a union is an integral part of addressing racial inequity in cannabis.

If you have any questions, please contact Federal Legislative Representative, Chris Michalakis at 202-215-6572 or cmichalakis@uflw.org.

Sincerely,



International President