



National Cannabis Roundtable Principles for Federal Reform

The National Cannabis Roundtable (NCR) has agreed to a set of principles that will form the basis for its legislative and policy priorities with the next administration and the next Congress. These principals are an evolution of the agenda with which NCR was founded: to balance respect for state-legal cannabis programs with commonsense federal regulation. These principles will serve as our compass as we navigate federal reform efforts with lawmakers, and other industry advocates, in order to realize the full potential of the legal cannabis industry for patients, consumers and as a driver of the American economy.

Decriminalize Cannabis at the Federal Level

NCR envisions that federal cannabis reform that legitimates conduct that is lawful under state law - whether through legislative descheduling or other mechanisms proposed through administrative action—will prioritize ending the federal prosecution, conviction, and incarceration of consumers and operators, and will repair the criminal records of those harmed by the War on Drugs. NCR supports federal legalization that considers retroactive removal of penalties.

NCR supports community reinvestment and the removal of criminal penalties for conduct that is *lawful under state law* – while maintaining frameworks that can appropriately punish bad actors that engage in activity harmful to public health and safety. States will be the primary arbiters of criminal conduct, but federal criminal enforcement may be requested to deal with violations of state law.

Protect the Integrity of State Cannabis Programs

NCR will propose and advance policies that limit federal involvement in state cannabis programs – and create a safe harbor for existing businesses - as federal regulations are developed. NCR supports the federal government’s oversight of products that make medical claims and the role of the federal government in ensuring safe products.

Remediate Harm Done by the Failed War on Drugs

NCR has pledged to steward an inclusive industry with each NCR member contributing in a unique and positive way to address the harms of the failed, decades-long War on Drugs. NCR is committed to fostering an industry that: actively supports social justice reforms, and an end to the criminalization of cannabis; is comprised of, and supported by, a diverse group of owners, investors, professional services providers, suppliers, and vendors; invests in an inclusive workforce, especially seeking to engage those who have been adversely impacted by the failed drug war; and that promotes access for people who have historically suffered from disparities in access to healthcare.

NCR will prioritize legal and policy solutions that reinvest in the communities most impacted by the War on Drugs.



Equitable Treatment for Cannabis Businesses

NCR supports the equal treatment of cannabis businesses: access to financial services, small business funding, capital markets, crop insurance and federal bankruptcy laws, as well as the elimination of tax barriers. In the event that federal legalization occurs in a mechanism other than descheduling, NCR will promote the alteration of the tax code to ensure equitable taxation of the cannabis industry.

Ensure Patient and Consumer Safety

NCR will advocate for the introduction of safe cannabis use to mainstream America to enable health, wellness and happiness. As part of that effort, NCR supports a number of measures to ensure the highest degree of patient and consumer safety, including:

Protecting vulnerable populations by establishing a minimum national age for purchase, as well as federal standards for age verification, with exceptions for pediatric patients;

The creation of national, common-sense testing and disposal standards ensuring safe products are available nationwide and are removed if unsafe;

Development of evidence-based mechanisms to prevent impaired driving, including more research on DUI specifically as it relates to cannabis;

Additional research to further our understanding of the plant although research is not a pre-requisite to reform.

Enable Domestic Industry to Thrive

NCR believes that the nascent, domestic cannabis industry must be allowed to develop into a stable marketplace before permitting cannabis from foreign producers to enter the US. NCR supports policy frameworks that will allow the domestic industry to thrive, and which unequivocally addresses this by statute.

In particular, NCR supports policies that will ensure imported cannabis will be held to the same rigor of standards that exist in state-legal marketplaces. This will maintain the highest standards of safety for American patients and consumers.

Any future importation of cannabis must also recognize the unique position of minority business owners who have obtained cannabis licenses through social equity programs. Those business owners must be allowed to develop their enterprises if the cannabis industry is to truly remediate the harm done by the failed War on Drugs.