



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Ending the Prohibition on Marijuana Will Help our Communities**

MADISON – Representative Melissa Sargent (D-Madison) released the following statement regarding today’s press conference by Governor Tony Evers on his plans to introduce the first steps towards marijuana legalization in his 2019-2020 Budget:

“Today, Governor Tony Evers will speak regarding his plans to call for the decriminalization and legalization of marijuana for medicinal use, expungement for certain possession amounts, and allowing for the use of CBD oil without a doctor’s certificate. These are great first steps in providing relief for those with medical needs, and for reducing the burden of unjust and disparate arrests for marijuana possession.

People all across our state want to see marijuana’s medicinal benefits help our communities, and to reduce the impacts prohibition has on our criminal justice system. Wisconsinites also largely support the full legalization of marijuana, and want to see a pragmatic approach that provides real relief for our friends and neighbors across our state. We must continue to work towards a path that comprehensively ends this prohibition, brings Wisconsin’s out of date policies up to speed with our neighboring states, and rectifies the damages that have been done to our communities.

The most dangerous thing about marijuana is that it is illegal, and we must ensure that there is a pathway towards fully legalizing marijuana in our state. I am committed to ending the prohibition on marijuana, and to bringing this necessary change that will truly help our communities in the long run.”

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*Melissa Sargent is a State Representative in the Wisconsin Assembly, representing the 48th Assembly District, which covers the east and north sides of the city of Madison and the village of Maple Bluff.*