



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gov. Evers Announces First Steps Towards Marijuana Legalization

MADISON – Representative Melissa Sargent (D-Madison) released the following statement in response to today’s news that Governor Tony Evers will take the [first steps towards the legalization of marijuana](#) in his upcoming budget:

“Today, it was reported that Governor Tony Evers will take the first steps towards the legalization of marijuana in Wisconsin in his 2019-2020 Budget by calling for its decriminalization and legalization for medicinal use, expungement for certain possession amounts, and allowing for the use of CBD oil without a doctor’s certificate. I applaud the Governor for hearing the people of our state, and working to bring Wisconsin up to speed with our Midwestern counterparts and states all around the nation. The legalization of medicinal marijuana is mainstream, [with 33 states allowing for medicinal use](#), and hundreds of thousands of people with medical needs finding relief. Many states, including neighboring Minnesota and Illinois, are moving towards legalizing recreational marijuana, and other neighbors like Michigan have already done so. The question is not if we will fully legalize marijuana in Wisconsin, but when.

Here in Wisconsin, nearly two out of three Wisconsinites believe that all marijuana sales should be taxed and regulated like alcohol sales, and [that number grows stronger every year](#). With this increased support for full legalization, it is clear that Wisconsinites are ready for truly pragmatic and common sense action. While Wisconsin must act in order to provide real relief for our friends and neighbors, we must also continue to push forward to ensure that there is a path towards fully legalizing marijuana in our state. Too many lives and communities have been damaged by out of date and backwards cannabis policies– we can take important steps in rectifying these damages by creating a pathway towards full legalization. The simple truth is, the most dangerous thing about marijuana right now in our state is that it is illegal.

It is refreshing to see Wisconsin taking important first steps in regards to marijuana legalization, and bringing a change that the people of Wisconsin have been calling for. It is past time that the legislature come to terms with the changing tides, hear the voices of our constituents, and be proactive in finding real solutions that create opportunity and remove barriers when it comes to marijuana, rather than continue to suffer the ill consequences of prohibition.

I look forward to continuing my efforts, in conjunction with the various stakeholders and individuals across our state, to bring the full legalization of marijuana to Wisconsin, and will work tirelessly to legalize opportunity in our state.”

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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.