



MELISSA AGARD
STATE SENATOR

August 12, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader - United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

Dear Senator Schumer,

I write today to express my strong support for your recent efforts to end the federal prohibition on cannabis. Your leadership is moving our country forward and away from the harmful cannabis laws of the past. I am appreciative of the legislation put forward by Senator Cory Booker and Senator Ron Wyden that you are supporting.

The policies detailed in the Cannabis Administration and Opportunity Act (CAOA) are thoughtful and comprehensive. Taking cannabis off of the federal drug schedule, expunging prior records, and funding equity programs are bold and necessary steps that will right the wrongs of our past drug policies.

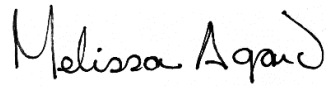
Here in Wisconsin, I am proud to have introduced the first full legalization bill in our state's history back in 2013 when I was a member of the State Assembly. I have introduced this bill every session since then and we continue to gather additional support each year. In addition to these bills, Governor Tony Evers included this policy in his 2021-23 biennial state budget proposal. While Republicans on the Joint Committee on Finance removed it from the final budget, the policy gained significant momentum due to the statewide attention on the subject of cannabis legalization.

This week, I once again introduced my bill to legalize cannabis in Wisconsin and tax and regulate it much like we already do with alcohol. I'm encouraged by the fact that we already have more co-sponsors than in any previous session. We are seeing support grow around the state with local leaders and advocates calling on their elected officials to take up this policy.

I truly appreciate your efforts in the United States Senate to address this issue in a holistic manner rather than aiming for half measures or an incremental approach. Your efforts to reach out to colleagues on both sides of the aisle are to be commended as well. A policy that has so many wide reaching positive impacts should be bipartisan and celebrated as a win for our nation. Much like you, I am encouraging my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to sign on to the bill I authored here in Wisconsin.

I often tell my constituents that it is not *if* cannabis will be legalized, but *when* it will be legalized. On behalf of all my constituents that reach out to my office in support of legalization, I want to say thank you for your efforts. Please know that there are countless people in Wisconsin cheering you on and supporting your work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Agard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melissa Agard
Wisconsin State Senator
16th Senate District

cc:
Senator Tammy Baldwin
Senator Ron Johnson
Congressman Mark Pocan
Senator Cory Booker
Senator Ron Wyden