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Cannabis Association Withdraws Legislation

Industry association will continue advocacy in 2020 Legislative Session to allow licensed cannabis stores to offer CBD-only products and reform location compliance requirements

WASHINGTON – Today the Washington CannaBusiness Association (WACA) shared that it had requested HB 2263 and SB 6085 be withdrawn from consideration during the 2020 Legislative Session. The legislation proposed creating a new fund to support equity in the marketplace and would have removed Washington’s residency requirements for investing in a regulated cannabis business. WACA formally made the request to the legislature following a House committee hearing on HB 2263 the morning of January 16.

“As an industry, we are committed to upholding a safe, well-regulated and quality-controlled marketplace that works to keep cannabis out of the hands of kids,” said Vicki Christophersen, executive director of WACA. “We were proud to offer a proposal for improving equity in the industry and hope that the conversation continues on this important work. Our members remain concerned that Washington’s potentially unconstitutional ban on access to capital continues to be in effect.”

WACA’s 2020 Legislative Agenda includes:

- **Expand Access to CBD Products (HB 2300, SB 6269)** - Non-licensed businesses like grocery stores and gift shops can sell pure CBD products – but licensed, regulated businesses within the 502 marketplace cannot. Although CBD is no longer a controlled substance the FDA has yet to issue any regulation or guidance and therefore products sold in grocery stores are not regulated or tested. WACA is advocating to update cannabis laws so that licensed professionals (clearly experienced in cannabis, CBD) will be able to sell CBD-only products that are subject to the same testing requirements as other regulated THC products. Passage of this bill will give Washingtonians access to safe, regulated CBD-only products until the federal government take further action on the broader CBD market.

- **Location Compliance (HB 2359, SB 6206)** - WACA supports clarifying regulation so that an approved license-holder's location cannot be found out of compliance if, after designation as compliant and approved, unforeseen development creates a restriction that was not there at the time of approval. The steps between identifying a compliant location for a licensed retail cannabis business and final approval to open the doors are sequential and comprehensive. No business can anticipate fluctuating real estate realities that change the environment in a community from one month to the next.

In addition to these proposals WACA is committed to reinforcing public policy that protects public health and safety. Recent public health crises highlight renewed commitment and diligence of the licensed industry to be open and transparent about its products and how they're produced, to invest in research that increases understanding about cannabis and to continue to collaborate with elected leaders, law enforcement and regulators to drive the illicit market out of Washington.

The Washington CannaBusiness Association has a proud and successful record of developing and supporting public policy that upholds a safe, quality-controlled regulated market that works to keep cannabis out of the hands of minors. During the 2019 legislative session, WACA successfully advocated for significant compliance reform to align the cannabis industry with its peers in other economic sectors. Most recently, WACA has successfully represented license-holders during the July 2019 breakdown of the state's traceability software and ongoing challenges presented in consistent, standardized approval of packaging-and-labeling.

About Washington CannaBusiness Association

Washington CannaBusiness Association solely represents Washington's licensed and regulated cannabis businesses and provides its members with general support and representation before regulatory agencies and the legislature. As an association of cannabis producers, processors and retailers who have gathered to promote the private cannabis industry created by Initiative 502 and our member companies, our mission is to advocate on behalf of our member companies in the legislative, regulatory, legal and public policy arenas.

Learn more about Washington CannaBusiness Association by visiting our website at <http://www.wacannabusiness.org>

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