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## **New Medical Access Fund for Cannabis Patients Wins Federal Approval**

*Washington CannaBusiness Association receives IRS approval for new non-profit dedicated to reducing financial barriers to medical cannabis products*

WASHINGTON – Today the Washington CannaBusiness Association (WACA) updated the public on its efforts to create a new non-profit to help qualified patients defray the costs of medical cannabis products. The effort, first announced in December 2016, has achieved a key milestone in securing 501(c)(3) status from the Internal Revenue Service. This will allow contributors to make tax-deductible donations to the program, analogous with non-profit community programs in other health care sectors that provide prescription drug price relief.

“The medical cannabis community has been tireless in their advocacy for affordable access to the products patients need to improve their health and wellness and for two years we have been pursuing a pathway to support them,” **said John Branch, WACA Board Member and Founder of Ponder, a medical-cannabis-certified retailer.** “This is a great day in our shared work to help ensure that registered patients who are experiencing difficult financial circumstances can apply for support so that they can access the cannabis products prescribed by their medical professional.”

**Branch continued.** “This IRS approval for our new Medical Access Fund is another testament to the viability and security of the safe, quality-controlled and regulated marketplace in Washington.”

WACA, following IRS approval for the program’s non-profit status, is now preparing to solicit donations and formulating the process for accepting, reviewing and awarding applications. The process will reflect the best practices followed by the many other similar health care cost-relief programs around the country. Once a process is in place, a future announcement will be made to formally launch the new Medical Access Fund. No further details are to be released at this time.

**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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