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## **Cannabis industry thanks elected leaders for protecting marketplace**

*Laws and regulations adopted in 2017 to support legal cannabis industry, help keep pot out of the hands of minors*

WASHINGTON – Today the Washington CannaBusiness Association (WACA) and its members applauded the work of state senators, representatives and Governor Inslee in their work to uphold our state’s regulated cannabis marketplace. While some key priorities of WACA’s [2017 Legislative Agenda](#) did not advance this year, the hard work and careful attention of Washington’s elected leaders to the burgeoning cannabis marketplace did not go unnoticed.

Senate Bill 5131, the omnibus cannabis bill covering new regulatory changes for the legal marketplace, is headed to Governor Inslee’s desk after bipartisan votes in the House and Senate.

“Our industry is conscious that while a clear majority of Washington voters support a legal cannabis marketplace, not everyone is convinced that our current system is the best approach, or should even exist at all,” **said Rob Hendrix, Washington CannaBusiness Association board member and owner of Cannabis Central, a licensed retail store in Ellensburg.** “This session there was a desire among many elected leaders in Olympia to address the concerns of some regarding advertising and marketing in the industry. Our approach has been to work with lawmakers to offer reasonable adjustments to the policy discussion to meet any concerns while also protecting the ability of regulated businesses to compete in Washington’s growing marketplace. We are generally supportive of the new restrictions on billboards and advertising in our shared goal to keep cannabis out of the hands of minors.”

**Hendrix continued:** “We look forward to continuing to engage with policymakers, regulators and our elected leaders as we work to uphold a marketplace that is safe for consumers and provides high-quality products for patients.”

The omnibus bill also covers the following policies:

- New protections and security for I-502 license-holders where local bans on regulated cannabis businesses or other regulatory actions have taken place.
- Longer grace period of nine months for the Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) before the LCB may cause the forfeiture of a retail marijuana license held by a licensee.
- New regulations concerning the processing and research of industrial hemp to align with the provisions of the Federal Agricultural Act of 2014, as well as authorization from the Washington State Department of Agriculture. Additional updates to regulations concerning the processing and sale of industrial hemp were also included.
- No longer a felony to privately share a legal marijuana product.

### **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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