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POLICE GROUP APPLAUDS HOUSE PASSAGE OF MARIJUANA OPPORTUNITY REINVESTMENT AND EXPUNGEMENT (MORE) ACT

H.R.3617's Comprehensive Framework Offers a Bipartisan Solution to the Criminalization of Marijuana and Begins to Repair the Harms Caused by the 'War On Drugs'

Washington, DC — On Friday, the United States House of Representatives passed <u>H.R. 3617</u>, which would federally deschedule marijuana and remove criminal penalties for adults who manufacture, distribute, or possess it. Overwhelmingly, Americans <u>support</u> the legalization of marijuana for adult use.

Commenting on the MORE Act's passage, Lt. Diane Goldstein (Ret.), current executive director of the Law Enforcement Action Partnership, said:

"The bipartisan nature of the vote shows me that Congress is ready to work together to undo the harms caused by the failed 'War on Drugs.' We now have a framework to federally legalize adult use of marijuana that not only centers fairness and justice for everyone, it contains elements of restorative justice for those individuals and communities most adversely affected by the horrific legacy of the 'War on Drugs.' And for those worried about the kids—the kids are alright. Legalizing adult use of marijuana is one of the best ways that we can keep them safe: states that have legalized marijuana have not seen any increase in youth consumption rates, and some have even experienced <u>declining</u> consumption rates."

House passage of the MORE Act is an excellent first step to bring federal law in line with an increasing majority of state laws—currently, 18 states and Washington, DC have adopted laws legalizing marijuana for adults 21 and older. We implore the US Senate to act swiftly in advancing the MORE Act to address this incongruence.

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The Law Enforcement Action Partnership (<u>LEAP</u>) is a nonprofit group of police, judges, prosecutors, and other criminal justice professionals who use their expertise to advance public safety solutions. LEAP's nearly 200 law enforcement representatives from diverse backgrounds speak on behalf of thousands of law enforcement professionals across the U.S.

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