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POLICE GROUP APPLAUDS BIDEN'S PARDON FOR SIMPLE POSSESSION AND HIS COMMITMENT TO RESCHEDULING MARIJUANA

Biden's Executive Order Will Impact Thousands of People and Have Lasting Impacts on Reversing the Failure of the War on Drugs

Medford, MA — The Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP) commends President Biden on his decision to pardon all federal offenses for simple possession of marijuana and for his decision to review its classification as a Schedule One drug. As noted in the public announcement, the pardon will affect people federally convicted of simple possession of marijuana who may be unable to secure housing or educational and employment opportunities to move forward with their lives. If the drug is rescheduled, it could finally resolve the conflict between federal law and that of states who have legalized marijuana or approved it for medical use, and allow others to join their ranks.

“This is amazing news, not only to those whose lives have been adversely affected by our outdated and cruel drug policies, but also to those of us on the front lines of this movement advocating for reform,” said Lt. Diane Goldstein (Ret.), executive director of LEAP. “Law enforcement around the country knows that prohibition is an unjust and failing policy. This is a monumental step towards correcting historic wrongs and letting science drive us toward solutions. President Biden’s executive order will give thousands of people their lives back.”

Biden has requested the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General to “expeditiously review” how marijuana is scheduled under federal drug law. Currently, cannabis is listed as a Schedule One drug under the Controlled Substances Act, which is the most restrictive category, reserved for those drugs with high potential for abuse, no accepted medical application, and a lack of safety.

By calling for the federal government to reschedule cannabis, the administration will do for federal law what states across the country have already demonstrated: that we can sensibly regulate cannabis, and we are seeing it on a daily basis. Sensible regulation allows law enforcement to focus our resources on [solving the crimes](#) that impact our communities most.

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The Law Enforcement Action Partnership ([LEAP](#)) 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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