

# Liz Terwilliger for Congress

A Representative, Not A Politician

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December 6, 2020

A bill, HR3884, passed the House of Representatives on December 4<sup>th</sup>. This bill decriminalizes marijuana. Unfortunately, it also does much more.

During the 2020 campaign, I spoke often about the need for "Single Issue Legislation." Although this legislation is all about cannabis, this is not what I meant. Don't get me wrong, I am happy a decriminalization bill passed the House. It will stall in the Senate, but at least this bill has the mainstream media talking about decriminalization as more than just a fringe issue. If the Senate did pick it up, it could clean it up; remove the excess and make it just about decriminalization.

I am strongly in favor of decriminalization; I favor treatment over jail time. This bill, however, tries to do too much. There's a Bureau of Labor Statistics report requirement, an Opportunity Trust Fund, a tax on cannabis products, a Community Reinvestment Grant Program, a Government Accountability Office Study and the establishment of a Cannabis Justice Office in this bill, in addition to decriminalization. If the bill was just about decriminalization, would it have passed? If we had a less polarized political climate, would the Senate take it up and remove the excess? We'll never know.

We need change. We need to remove marijuana from the list of scheduled substances under the Controlled Substances Act. This has implications for banking and for the day to day operation of dispensaries in states that have already legalized marijuana. We need to eliminate criminal penalties and expunge convictions for marijuana possession, at a minimum. I've emailed Rep. Keller to ask him to explain his vote on this bill. I've emailed Senators Casey and Toomey asking them to take up this legislation and pare it down. I encourage you to do the same.

-Liz Terwilliger