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Contact: Denis McLaughlin
denis@lawenforcementaction.org
202.780.6486

POLICE GROUP ENDORSES STATES REFORM ACT
Fmr. Assistant Counsel to the U.S. House Judiciary Committee Offers Key Endorsement

Washington, D.C. — On Monday, former Assistant Counsel to the U.S. House Judiciary Committee, Eric Sterling, offered the [Law Enforcement Action Partnership's](#) official endorsement of the States Reform Act. The legislation would federally decriminalize cannabis and defer to individual states decisions over prohibition and regulation. In doing so, the Act stipulates that cannabis and cannabis-related products would be regulated in a similar manner to alcohol, protecting those under the age of 21 from advertising or sales.

“Prohibition is a failed policy. Right now, 18 states have legalized the adult use of cannabis and a total of 36 states have legalized the medical use of cannabis or cannabis-related products. Polling from [Gallup](#) and [Pew](#) demonstrate that Americans believe that adult use of cannabis should be a legal, regulated industry. Even police, who have traditionally been painted as opponents of reform, [support legalization](#), because they have seen how decriminalization has allowed them to focus on real crime and improved relations with the communities they serve,” said Lt. Diane Goldstein (Ret.), executive director of Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP). “With the introduction of today’s legislation, I’m hopeful that we’ll see reinvigorated efforts to work together toward an end to the War on Drugs with sensible policy that works for all Americans.”

Notably, Eric Sterling, who helped craft the Anti-Drug Abuse Acts of 1986 and 1988 said, “Every day that cannabis remains illegal, almost 1,000 people are arrested for cannabis-related charges. For most of those people, many poor people and disproportionately people of color, a marijuana arrest is an economic catastrophe. It often results in the loss of a job, sometimes even homelessness, family breakup and long-term unemployment.”

LEAP endorses the States Reform Act because it federally decriminalizes the adult use of cannabis and cannabis-related products while setting base guidelines for regulation. As proposed, the law provides ample protections for our communities while ensuring continuity for states that have already implemented regulated markets.

Police have a finite amount of resources at their disposal; when these resources are allocated to policing low-level cannabis offenses, other, more serious crimes against people and property are left [unsolved](#). Furthermore, low-income and communities of color are overpoliced for cannabis infractions, despite the [similar rates of usage](#) in more affluent communities, which erodes community trust and makes it harder for police to do their jobs effectively. The States Reform Act represents an investment in all of us and a better way forward.

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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.