



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDIA ALERT**

**U.S. Reps. Tony Cardenas and Earl Blumenauer to Join Baltimore City State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby and Other Leaders in Virtual Press Conference to Discuss the Need for Reform of Federal Laws Criminalizing Marijuana**

*New polling to be released shows strong bipartisan support for marijuana decriminalization and investment in communities harmed by past drug policy*

**\*\*\*VIRTUAL PRESS CONFERENCE: AUGUST 19, 2020, 1:00 PM ET\*\*\***

**WASHINGTON, DC** — Rep. Tony Cardenas (CA-29) and Rep. Earl Blumenauer (OR-3) will join Baltimore City State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby and other criminal justice leaders for a virtual press conference to discuss the importance of moving away from the criminalization of marijuana, while urging Congress to move on the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment & Expungement (MORE) Act (H.R. 3884) in September.

The MORE Act would decriminalize marijuana at the federal level, expunge previous convictions and establish grant programs to benefit communities disproportionately harmed by the war on drugs. As Americans continue to demand changes to the criminal justice system that will promote public safety and address racial disparities, reforming federal laws that criminalize marijuana is a critical step in the fight for justice.

At the press conference, national groups will also release and discuss new polling from Data for Progress, the Justice Collaborative Institute, Fair and Just Prosecution (FJP) and the Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP) showing strong bipartisan support for marijuana decriminalization and legalization. The report and polling show that a majority of voters agree that marijuana tax dollars would be valuable revenue for states, and even in states where the drug remains illegal, there is agreement across party lines that marijuana arrests should be curtailed.

**WHAT:** Legislators, prosecutors and law enforcement officials to discuss how reforming federal marijuana policy would promote public safety and public health and help police and criminal justice leaders forge better relationships with the communities they serve. They will also share new polling that shows widespread bipartisan support for reform. Media Q&A will follow prepared remarks.

**WHO:**

- **Rep. Tony Cardenas** (CA-29)
- **Rep. Earl Blumenauer** (OR-3)
- **Maj. Neill Franklin**, Executive Director, LEAP
- **Miriam Krinsky**, Executive Director, FJP
- **Rep. Barbara Lee**, (CA-13)
- **Diane Lucas**, Senior Legal Counsel, The Justice Collaborative
- **Marilyn Mosby**, Baltimore City State's Attorney
- **Lt. Nick Bucci**, LEAP

**WHEN:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 1:00 PM ET

**REGISTER:** For dial-in details RSVP [here](#).

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***Fair and Just Prosecution** is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP's work, visit [www.fairandjustprosecution.org](http://www.fairandjustprosecution.org) or follow us on Facebook [@FairAndJustProsecution](#).*

***The Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP)** is a nonprofit group of police, judges, prosecutors, and other criminal justice professionals who advance evidence-based public safety solutions. To learn more about LEAP's work, visit [www.lawenforcementactionpartnership.org](http://www.lawenforcementactionpartnership.org) or follow us on Facebook [@LawEnforcementAction](#).*

***Data for Progress** is a think tank that uses data to support progressive activists, candidates, and causes.*

***The Justice Collaborative Institute** is home to a collection of the nation's top scholars and thinkers bound together by a common mission to produce rigorous, practical research that contributes to an America with more dignity and freedom for all of us, starting with those who are the most vulnerable. We translate our research into pragmatic resources for public officials, reporters, advocates, and other scholars, including polling memos, policy briefs, model laws and policies, and amicus briefs.*