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Statement on the Passing of the MORE Act and Federal Marijuana Reform in the House

Fair and Just Prosecution Executive Director Miriam Krinsky issued the following statement today in response to the passing of the Marijuana Opportunity, Reinvestment and Expungement (MORE) Act in the U.S. House of Representatives:

"Today, the House took a significant step towards rebuilding trust in the criminal legal system by passing the Marijuana Opportunity, Reinvestment and Expungement (MORE) Act to decriminalize marijuana. We commend the bipartisan group of Representatives who voted to pass this historic legislation, which will end decades of unnecessary and punitive marijuana policies, and urge other federal leaders to join in embracing these sensible and long overdue changes.

There has never been a more important time for drug policy reform, given the ongoing health and economic devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the deeply-entrenched racial disparities within our justice system that have been exacerbated by federal marijuana policy. As more than 50 elected prosecutors and law enforcement officials shared in a letter to Congress earlier this year, the MORE Act will benefit public safety by providing law enforcement with the opportunity to rebuild trust with the communities they serve and shifting resources away from the criminalization of drug use and towards addressing serious conduct that truly impacts public safety.

The House's action today is representative of the will of the people. Recent polling reflects bipartisan support for these reforms, and every ballot initiative regarding cannabis reform passed in both red and blue states in the recent election. This much-needed show of national leadership is welcomed by the American people, and we hope the Senate will take up this legislation and listen to the demands for change echoing around our nation."

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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 our website and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.