Dear Cannabis Supporters,

Please mail or copy and paste in an email the letter below. We need to start educating your legislators about the financial benefits of legalizing cannabis.

Background Information: https://www.ncnorml.org/fact-sheets/

Also, please help NC NORML track legislators’ positions by filling out “Your Insights of your Legislators” if you talk to your legislators or get a response by email please fill out this form https://actionnetwork.org/forms/constituent-feedback Your comments are not public and will be used to help us develop strategy.

Email Content

Subject: Legalize Cannabis - freedom for physicians to choose the dose for treatment

Dear Representative or Senator (put their name),

The current economic crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic makes the economic benefits of legalizing cannabis more important. Economic research shows that legalizing cannabis reduces costs associated with state and local courts, law enforcement, health care and workers’ compensation.

Between 2001-2010, North Carolina and its counties spent more than $6 million annually on courts, prisons and enforcing cannabis laws based on the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

Forbes Magazine reported a study that found annual average per-state Medicaid savings of $60 million when cannabis was available to replace more expensive pharmaceuticals.

Reuters Health reported on a data analysis of worker’s compensation claims, finding a 6.7% decrease in claims when medical cannabis was legally available.

The Cato Institute estimates that North Carolina’s increased revenue from legalized cannabis could total $126 million plus additional income taxes derived from newly created jobs.

North Carolina farmers and the state’s rural areas will also benefit. In 2019, Grow Global reported that cannabis is “the most lucrative cash crop in the world.” And in May 2020, Hemp Benchmarks reported that outdoor-grown cannabis flowers produce $810 per pound, while dried hemp flowers produce $380 per pound and cotton produces $0.58 per pound.

Legalizing cannabis saves lives. A study funded by the National Institutes of Health found that over a 6-year period “states with medical cannabis laws had a 24.8% lower opioid overdose mortality rate.” Additionally, a RAND Corporation national study found that the use of cocaine dropped 50% as legal cannabis use increased 30%.

I hope that you will support giving physicians the right to treat and improve the lives of patients and assist the state budget. Please share your thoughts. Email me if you have questions.

Sincerely,