



For Immediate Release
May 18, 2021

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Hinds County Dems to Legislature: Pass Medical Marijuana Law; Fix Ballot Initiative Provision

Legislators Cannot Wait to Restore Help for Ailing Mississippi Patients

JACKSON—The Hinds County Democratic Executive Committee (HCDEC) is calling for a Special Session of the Mississippi Legislature to enact a medical marijuana law mirroring the one passed overwhelmingly last November by Mississippi voters. The HCDEC is also urging legislators to begin working immediately to address deficiencies in Section 273, Part 3 of the Mississippi Constitution¹ that led the state Supreme Court to strike down the provisions of Initiative 65 governing the use of medical marijuana last Friday.

“The legislature needs to immediately enact a law that is identical to the one passed by a majority of the electorate last November providing immediate relief for suffering Mississippi patients who were relying upon legal, medical marijuana. It is immoral and unfair for our legislature to keep chronically ill patients in limbo because of political games and procrastination,” said HCDEC Chair Jacqueline Amos. “They must also amend the ballot initiative law to restore that process in in a timely manner.”

Mississippians for Compassionate Care, the organization which helped place Initiative 65 on the ballot last year has said that “patients suffering from such chronic and debilitating diseases such as cancer, epilepsy, chronic pain, Parkinson’s disease, PTSD, ALS, and others”² would benefit from legal, medical marijuana. Only patients examined by their physicians and certified to use medical marijuana would be eligible to acquire medical marijuana in Mississippi under the law passed by voters last November.

The Mississippi Legislature could pass—and Governor Reeves could sign—legislation mirroring Initiative 65 along with an instant enactment date as a legislative remedy. A poll conducted by Chism Strategies on May 17, 2021 found that “70% of voters say the legislature should pass a medical marijuana law that matches exactly the wording in the constitutional amendment approved by the voters’ last fall”³ and that “60% of voters favor a special session to address the issue of Medical Marijuana,”⁴ indicating strong public support for the HCDEC’s position.

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¹ https://www.sos.ms.gov/Education-Publications/Documents/Downloads/Mississippi_Constitution.pdf, pg. 123

² <https://www.medicalmarijuana2020.com/faq>

³ <https://chismstrategies.com/news/public-opinion-survey-ms-supreme-court-and-initiative-65-on-medical-marijuana>

⁴ Ibid