

Wisconsin NORML: Sen. Agard re-introduces legislation to legalize and regulate cannabis in Wisconsin

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Madison, WI: Senator Melissa Agard (D- Madison) has re-introduced comprehensive legislation that would legalize cannabis for both adult and medical uses in Wisconsin.

Alan Robinson, Wisconsin NORML Executive Director, acknowledged the tensions between the governor's administration and the Republican-majority legislature on this issue. "Twice the Governor has added cannabis reform to his budget, and twice the joint finance committee has removed it. Senator Agard has responded with a comprehensive, common sense legislation that grants access to medical patients, regulates responsible adult use, and begins to repair the communities most negatively impacted by cannabis prohibition."

The proposal would permit qualifying patients, as well as all adults to legally possess and purchase cannabis from licensed retail outlets. Both patients and non-patients would be permitted to grow cannabis plants at home. It also establishes regulations for the production and retail sale of marijuana to anyone over the age of 21, in addition to establishing a regulated system for medical marijuana production and sales for qualified patients.

Wisconsin NORML Member, Meredith Peterson said "As a mother and cancer patient, I rely on cannabis to deal with chemotherapy side effects. It is past time for a compassionate law that stops making criminals out of everyday Wisconsin citizens. Senator Agard's bill is the rational way to bring Wisconsin into the modern age; I fully support it."

Senator Agard, a long-time ally to the marijuana reform movement, was elected in

2020 to represent state Senate District 16, which covers the Madison area. Prior to her election in the Senate, Agard was a member of the state Assembly from 2012-2019.

Currently, 36 US states regulate medical cannabis access. Eighteen of those states regulate cannabis for all adults.