



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

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January 29, 2025

Senator Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Morgan McGarvey
1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Rand Paul
295 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Thomas Massie
2453 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative James Comer
2410 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Hal Rogers
2406 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Brett Guthrie
2434 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Andy Barr
2430 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: *Kentucky Support for Amending the Gun Control Act of 1968*

Dear Kentucky Congressional Delegation:

As Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, my job is to move our state forward. For that reason, I write to urge you to take decisive action and protect the constitutional rights of law-abiding Kentucky medical cannabis patients by amending the Gun Control Act of 1968. There is a critical need to resolve the conflict between federal firearms law and state-approved medical cannabis programs — a conflict that unfairly jeopardizes the constitutional rights of law-abiding American citizens with serious medical conditions.

The launch of Kentucky's Medical Cannabis Program on the first of this year marks a huge step forward for our Commonwealth, and we look forward to seeing how safe medical cannabis products will improve the lives of Kentuckians suffering from serious medical conditions.

As we enter this new era, my Administration is committed to ensuring that our citizens with qualifying medical conditions have safe access to medical cannabis. We also want to ensure every Kentuckian is treated fairly - regardless of what lawful medication they choose.

Unfortunately, under current federal law, any law-abiding citizen who elects to participate in any state-legalized medical cannabis program – like Kentucky's – is prohibited from exercising his or her Second Amendment rights to purchase or possess a firearm. As applied to medical cannabis patients, that federal law undermines medical freedom and disproportionately impacts law-abiding patients with serious medical conditions such as cancer, chronic pain, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).


The current federal approach is incompatible with the medical reality. The majority of states, like Kentucky, allow their citizens to use medical cannabis. It is time to align federal law with state law in order to restore consistency to our laws and eliminate the confusion caused by federal law. No law-abiding Kentuckian, or American for that matter, who participates in a legal medical cannabis program should have to forfeit a fundamental right to access essential medical treatment recommended by his or her doctor.

As Governor, I will continue to put Kentucky patients first by ensuring fair access to medical cannabis as a healthcare necessity. That means advocating for commonsense solutions.

For this reason, I respectfully ask you to support or introduce legislation to amend the Gun Control Act of 1968, exempting law-abiding participants in state-legalized medical cannabis programs from that specific federal restriction. In this moment, Kentuckians and the American people are counting on commonsense, bipartisan leadership. It is up to you to provide it.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your attention and prompt action on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Andy Beshear
Governor