

I am a believer, supporter and defender of the tried and true commonsense principles of our Founding Fathers and of our Constitution. I love our great Republic. I hold in the utmost esteem our guaranteed liberties. I am a conservative. I believe in the philosophies of Burke and Kirk, the freedoms of Locke and the free-market capitalism of Smith. I am a classical liberal. I was a conservative talk radio host before there was conservative talk radio.

I also support cannabis reform, as do a majority of North Dakota voters.

Pete Sessions and the republican conference should stand with the 94% of the American public who support medical marijuana. Pete Sessions should not stand in the way of access to medical cannabis for veterans suffering from PTSD, cancer patients, and epileptics, among many others. Pete Sessions should not trample on state powers to regulate their own state-based industries.

Pete Sessions should, no, must schedule the Rohrabacher amendment for an up or down floor vote of the U.S. House of Representatives. We must tell Pete Sessions and the republican-controlled Congress that we support state powers, cannabis reform, and assured access to cannabis for patients.

As a conservative and constitutionalist, states are enabled to grow and regulate their own economies, within their state's boundaries, and under their own laws. They must be able to speak, act and legislate in a constitutionally guaranteed and sovereign manner. For any true conservative, the issue of cannabis regulation must be viewed through the lens of federalism, a lens that promotes state-first regulatory authority over industries solely within state boundaries.

We approved medical marijuana. Our duly elected legislature enacted rules to regulate the industry. The current president stated that he supports medical marijuana 100%. This support has not been forthcoming from the U.S. Department of Justice. As concerned citizens, we must let our federal representatives know that we are watching and we care about the sick and ailing having access to their medications.

North Dakota voters and North Dakota medical patients support this new industry being provided a level of assurance and certainty from the federal government. We must work to ensure that cancer patients, ALS sufferers, epileptics, and our veterans suffering from PTSD can get their medication without federal interference. Research has shown the efficacy of cannabis to treat these conditions. Don't let the Feds hinder access to cannabis as a treatment option.

We must let our congressional delegation know that we support continued reauthorization of the Rohrabacher amendment, preventing federal interference into North Dakota's legal cannabis industry. This amendment will provide assurances for the industry and patients alike. I also urge you to communicate your support for H.R. 1810, the Small Business Tax Equity Act, to our elected officials in

D.C. This Act will allow for cannabis businesses, for the purposes of taxation, to be treated like any other legal business in our state.

Don't let the GOP-led Congress and Executive branch exceed their federal authority. Let them know that we North Dakotans, as conservatives, libertarians, constitutionalists, anti-federalists, and yes, even liberals oppose federal intrusion into our state laws. Don't let the federal government come between patients and their medications.

-Scott Hennen  
Host of What's On Your Mind radio show  
Heard in North & South Dakota, Minnesota & Montana