

REPEAL MARIJUANA PROHIBITION

STOP THE HARM TO COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

WHY REPEAL MARIJUANA PROHIBITION?

It is time to stop imposing criminal or civil penalties for simple marijuana possession. Current marijuana laws are disparately enforced against people of color, and convictions can threaten someone's employment, housing and child custody. Virginia should repeal the prohibition of marijuana and stop the harm of current marijuana laws on communities of color.

THE SITUATION IN VIRGINIA

Black people in Virginia are 3.4 times more likely than white people to be arrested for marijuana offenses, despite similar usage rates. Nearly 29,000 people were arrested in Virginia last year for simple marijuana possession, up three times from the decade before.

Current efforts to decriminalize marijuana do nothing to address these racial disparities and stop law enforcement from using marijuana violations to target Black people. Only through repealing the prohibition on marijuana will this racist policing tool be destroyed.

OUR GOALS

The Virginia General Assembly should simply repeal the prohibition of marijuana use and possession from the Virginia criminal code. Study is needed before Virginia can put in place an equitable system to regulate marijuana sales, but there is no reason to delay this repeal.

FACT

BLACK VIRGINIANS ARE

3.4x

MORE LIKELY TO BE ARRESTED FOR MARIJUANA OFFENSES, UP FROM 2.7x IN THE LAST 10 YEARS.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Here are a few things you can do to get involved:

- Go to acluva.org/act/StopTheHarmVA to tell the General Assembly to repeal marijuana prohibition.
- Stay up-to-date on this issue through our social media.
- Subscribe to our email list: acluva.org.
- Become a member: acluva.org/join