



Washington State Legislature

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Jan. 7, 2015

Rivers, Hatfield introduce Cannabis Patient Protection Act

Senators [Ann Rivers](#), R-La Center, and [Brian Hatfield](#), D-Raymond, today introduced bipartisan legislation to ensure patients in Washington state have access to the best and safest cannabis products available.

The Cannabis Patient Protection Act would require all producers, processors and sellers of cannabis in the state, including medical operations, to meet the same requirements established by Initiative 502.

"This legislation puts a priority on patient safety while also ensuring a fair, equitable market for producers and retailers in our state," Rivers said.

The new law would establish standards for the production and processing of all legalized marijuana seed to sale, including product tracking and testing for safety and potency. Another key provision of the law would authorize a tax break for legally authorized patients to ensure access to medical cannabis.

"The reality is that the medical market does not have any regulations to protect consumers and ensure safety," Rivers said. "Right now patients aren't given the tools to know exactly what they are putting in their bodies. This legislation would bring a level of certainty and safety that they deserve."

Recent samples taken and tested from medical marijuana stores in Washington have revealed contaminants, including fecal bacteria and mold.

"This bill is about protecting patients and their rights while also leveling the business playing field," Hatfield said. "Right now recreational users have more

certainty of their marijuana's safety than people with medical needs.”

The bill will be filed this week and is expected to receive a hearing in the Senate Health Care Committee when the legislative session begins on Jan. 12.

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