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## **Overwhelming Senate support for Cannabis Patient Protection Act, bill advances to House**

*Bipartisan vote shows deep support for fair, legal and safe cannabis marketplace*

OLYMPIA – On Friday afternoon, the Cannabis Patient Protection Act passed out of the Senate and advanced to the House with a bipartisan vote of 36 to 11, with 2 excused. The legislation, SB 5052, strengthens the regulatory structure for legalized cannabis in Washington by codifying a single, wholly-regulated system that is safe, uniformly taxed, quality-controlled and enforceable by law.

The Washington CannaBusiness Association (WACA) is a strong supporter of the Cannabis Patient Protection Act and is working with elected leaders from both parties and from across the state to urge its passage into law. WACA is a professional association comprised of 502-licensed businesses seeking to compete in a legalized cannabis marketplace that currently unevenly applies the burden of regulation only to regulated businesses.

"Passage of the Cannabis Patient Protection Act is important for the safety of Washington consumers, who need assurance that all cannabis products in Washington State meet the stringent requirements outlined by law," said Vicki Christophersen, Executive Director of the Washington CannaBusiness Association. "The legislation is also critical for our members who represent entrepreneurs of every size from every corner of the state who have stepped up to become licensed, but have been competitively disadvantaged by doing so. This legislation ensures safe, quality-controlled and inspected products for all consumers in Washington as well as a level playing field on which to compete where all players in the marketplace are regulated equally. We thank Senators Rivers and Hatfield for their leadership, and the Senate for their work to support a safe, legal and regulated cannabis marketplace. We look forward to working with members of the House to support this important legislation."

### **About Washington CannaBusiness Association**

Washington CannaBusiness Association solely represents Washington's licensed and regulated cannabis businesses and provides its members with general support and representation before regulatory agencies and the legislature. As an association of

cannabis producers, processors and retailers who have gathered to promote the private cannabis industry created by Initiative 502 and our member companies, our mission is to advocate on behalf of our member companies in the legislative, regulatory, legal and public policy arenas.

Learn more about Washington CannaBusiness Association by visiting our website at <http://www.wacannabusiness.org>

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