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## **I-502 Licensed Businesses Align Behind Cannabis Patient Protection Act**

*Washington CannaBusiness Association members from across the state  
descend on Olympia to meet with elected leaders*

WASHINGTON – 25 I-502 license holders and members of the Washington CannaBusiness Association (WACA) are meeting today in Olympia with leaders in the House and the Senate for the Washington CannaBusiness Association Legislative Day. WACA members are sharing their support for the bipartisan Cannabis Patient Protection Act, which requires that **all** sellers of cannabis products in the state are similarly assessed taxes and meet the requirements for safety and quality that were established by Initiative 502. The Cannabis Patient Protection Act, sponsored by Senator Rivers (R) and Hatfield (D), is currently in the Senate Ways and Means Committee after passing out of the Senate Health Care Committee last week.

Among its key provisions, the Cannabis Patient Protection Act will require that all sellers of cannabis products in the state, including unlicensed, unregulated operations that have thrived under a banner of medical marijuana, meet the same requirements as those that were established by Initiative 502. Those requirements include:

- background checks
- security and traceability of product
- laboratory testing for safety and potency, labeling, and quality control.

“Washington voters overwhelmingly approved to legalize a system in which regulated cannabis products could be bought and sold safely and that would also generate revenue for state coffers. But becoming licensed under the new law has been a competitive disadvantage, as hundreds of unregulated players doing business under a medical banner flourish free from compliance to the same rules,” said Vicki Christophersen, WACA Executive Director. “If the legal cannabis marketplace is going to succeed, all businesses must be operating in the same, wholly-regulated system. WACA is in Olympia today to meet firsthand with lawmakers to put a face to the regulated cannabis industry, to share the challenges before them because of regulatory uncertainty and to express their commitment to ensure access to safe products for legitimate medical patients.”

WACA is also supporting legislation concerning issues of taxation and transportation that impact the newly established legal industry. I-502 WACA members who are meeting with elected leaders today include:

- Scott Sotebeer, Hemp Zen
- Mike Griffith, Green Theory
- John Branch, Lowe Graham Jones
- Richard Lappenbusch, Hoh Laboratory Services
- Ian Eisenberg, Uncle Ike's
- Michael McNutt, Farmwest
- Angela Jayo, Green America
- Adam Stites, Mirth Provisions
- Sara Blankinship and Tom Locan, RightPatch
- Dan Devlin, Db3
- Tim Moxey, Botanica Seattle
- Lori Lizotte and Chris Lloyd, PolygenixTHC
- Marshall Adam, Goldenleaf Hydro LLC
- Tyler Severy, Dave Meinert and Dave Easely, Torch NW
- Greg James, Topics-Ent
- Cip Paulsen, Grow State
- Dirk Nansen, Farmwest
- Brad Douglass, The Werc Shop
- Rob Hendrix, Cannabis Central
- Katey Cooper, Monkey Grass Farms

### **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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