



101 S. Washington Square #820
Lansing, MI 48933

Date: February 8, 2024

The Honorable Joseph Biden
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

The Michigan Cannabis Industry Association (MICIA) is the leading voice of the legal cannabis industry in our State. On behalf of the over 2,170 businesses, with over 35,071 employees of our state's licensed cannabis industry, we thank you for your ongoing effort to reschedule cannabis from a class I drug. We understand the crucial role our State will play in this election and how you are actively looking for opportunities to “meet voters where they are.” To this end, we invite you to come meet with our leadership to discuss your administration's historic work and share with you the challenges our industry faces.

In 2023, Michigan’s cannabis industry sold nearly \$3.06 billion in medical and adult-use cannabis; more than \$300 per-person in the State. Despite these numbers, the legal cannabis industry has been significantly impacted by changing capital markets of the post-Covid economy. Our inability to make normal business deductions, coupled with ongoing banking discrimination, has significantly impacted the profitability within the legal industry. Michigan has been hit especially hard. Since the onset of COVID-19 there have been widespread layoffs, business closures and challenges with retaining employees. The loss of jobs impacted individual livelihoods that affected local economies, consumer spending and tax revenues. Based on a report from July 2022, Michigan cannabis businesses experienced a 53% employee (budtenders specifically) turnover rate during a 12-month period. This high turnover rate impacts company productivity, morale and expenses.

When you announced the rescheduling effort, you said “Too many lives have been upended because of our failed approach to marijuana. It’s time that we right these wrongs.” We agree completely and see the legal licensed industry as a critical partner in keeping this promise. A thriving, regulated, legal industry is necessary in ending the failed approach to the “war on drugs,” and all the harm it has done; especially to communities of color.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, and we look forward to hearing from your office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin".

Robin Schneider
Executive Director
Michigan Cannabis Industry Association
robin@micia.org
(517) 974-2265