WE MUST PASS BIPARTISAN COVID RELIEF

(Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak of the urgent need to pass bipartisan COVID–19 relief legislation as Congress works to conclude our work this year.

Families, businesses, and workers in New Hampshire are feeling the continued pain and impact of this pandemic as cases reach record highs in my State and hospitals and frontline health workers brace for the expected surge.

This week, I was pleased to see Democrats and Republicans in the House and the Senate come together to find common ground and release a promising framework that we should consider immediately. This legislation would bolster our public health and economic response to COVID–19 to help us get through the long, cold, dark winter ahead.

Democrats and Republicans won't get everything they want, but we need to come together and put politics aside.

This legislation includes new funding for the Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses, State and local funding for our first responders, extended unemployment, and critical funding to help with the distribution of the promising COVID–19 vaccine, as well as $5 billion in funding to combat the opioid epidemic, which, tragically, continues to rage.

It is time to come together and get the job done.

□ 0915

MARIJUANA OPPORTUNITY REINVESTMENT AND EXPUNGEMENT ACT OF 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1244, I call up the bill (H.R. 3884) to decriminalize and deschedule cannabis, to provide for reinvestment in certain persons adversely impacted by the War on Drugs, to provide for expungement of certain cannabis offenses, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Pursuant to House Resolution 1244, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–67, modified by the amendment printed in House Report 116–607, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H. R. 3884

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act of 2020'' or the ''MORE Act of 2020''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) The communities that have been most harmed by cannabis prohibition are benefiting the least from the legal marijuana marketplace.

(2) A legacy of racial and ethnic injustices, compounded by the disproportionate collateral consequences of 80 years of cannabis prohibition enforcement, now limits participation in the industry.

(3) 36 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam have adopted laws allowing legal access to cannabis, and 15 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands have adopted laws legalizing cannabis for adult recreational use.

(4) A total of 47 States have reformed their laws pertaining to cannabis despite the Schedule I status of marijuana and its Federal criminalization.

(5) Legal cannabis sales totaled $9.5 billion in 2017 and are projected to reach $23 billion by 2022.

(6) According to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), enforcing cannabis prohibition laws costs taxpayers approximately $3.6 billion a year.

(7) The continued enforcement of cannabis prohibition laws results in over 600,000 arrests annually, disproportionately impacting people of color who are almost 4 times more likely to be arrested for cannabis possession than their White counterparts, despite equal rates of use across populations.

(8) People of color have been historically targeted by discriminatory sentencing practices resulting in Black men receiving drug sentences that are 13.1 percent longer than sentences imposed for White men and Latinos being nearly 6.5 times more likely to receive a Federal sentence for cannabis possession than non-Hispanic Whites.

(9) In 2013, simple cannabis possession was the fourth most common cause of deportation for any offense and the most common cause of deportation for drug law violations.

(10) Fewer than one-fifth of cannabis business owners identify as minorities and only approximately 4 percent are black.

(11) Applicants for cannabis licenses are limited by numerous laws, regulations, and exorbitant permit applications, licensing fees, and costs in these States, which can require more than $700,000.

(12) Historically disproportionate arrest and conviction rates make it particularly difficult for people of color to enter the legal cannabis marketplace, as most States bar these individuals from participating.

(13) Federal law severely limits access to loans and capital for cannabis businesses, disproportionately impacting minority small business owners.

(14) Some States and municipalities have taken proactive steps to mitigate inequalities in the legal cannabis marketplace and ensure equal participation in the industry.

SEC. 3. DECRIMINALIZATION OF CANNABIS.

(a) CANNABIS REMOVED FROM SCHEDULE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.—

(1) REMOVAL IN STATUTE.—Subsection (c) of schedule I of section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812) is amended—

(A) by striking ''(10) Marihuana.''; and

(B) by striking ''(17) Tetrahydrocannabinols, except for tetrahydrocannabinols in hemp (as defined in section 297A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946).''.

(2) REMOVAL FROM SCHEDULE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall finalize a rulemaking under section 201(a)(2) removing marihuana and tetrahydrocannabinols from the schedules of controlled substances. For the purposes of the Controlled Substances Act, marihuana and tetrahydrocannabinols shall each be deemed to be a drug or other substance that does not meet the requirements for inclusion in any schedule. A rulemaking under this paragraph shall be considered to have taken effect as of the date of enactment of this Act for purposes of any offense committed, case pending, conviction entered, and, in the case of a juvenile, any offense committed, case pending, and adjudication of juvenile delinquency entered before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.—The Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 102(44) (21 U.S.C. 802(44)), by striking ''marihuana,'';

(2) in section 401(b) (21 U.S.C. 841(b))—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (vi), by inserting ''or'' after the semicolon;

(II) by striking clause (vii); and

(III) by redesignating clause (viii) as clause (vii);

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (vi), by inserting ''or'' after the semicolon;

(II) by striking clause (vii); and

(III) by redesignating clause (viii) as clause (vii);

(iii) in subparagraph (C), in the first sentence, by striking ''subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D)'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (A) and (B)'';

(iv) by striking subparagraph (D);

(v) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (D); and

(vi) in subparagraph (D)(i), as so redesignated, by striking ''subparagraphs (C) and (D)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (C)'';

(B) by striking paragraph (4); and

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (4), (5), and (6), respectively;

(3) in section 402(c)(2)(B) (21 U.S.C. 842(c)(2)(B)), by striking '', marihuana,'';

(4) in section 403(d)(1) (21 U.S.C. 843(d)(1)), by striking '', marihuana,'';

(5) in section 418(a) (21 U.S.C. 859(a)), by striking the last sentence;

(6) in section 419(a) (21 U.S.C. 860(a)), by striking the last sentence;

(7) in section 422(d) (21 U.S.C. 863(d))—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''marijuana,''; and

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking '', such as a marihuana cigarette,''; and

(8) in section 516(d) (21 U.S.C. 886(d)), by striking ''section 401(b)(6)'' each place the term appears and inserting ''section 401(b)(5)''.

(c) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM DRUG CONTROL ACT OF 1986.—The National Forest System Drug Control Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 559b et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 15002(a) (16 U.S.C. 559b(a)) by striking ''marijuana and other'';

(B) in section 15003(2) (16 U.S.C. 559c(2)) by striking ''marijuana and other''; and

(C) in section 15004(2) (16 U.S.C. 559d(2)) by striking ''marijuana and other''.

(2) INTERCEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS.—Section 2516 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (1)(e), by striking ''marihuana,''; and

(B) in subsection (2) by striking ''marihuana''.

(3) FMCSA PROVISIONS.—

(A) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 31301(5) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 31306,'' and inserting ''sections 31306, 31306a, and subsections (b) and (c) of section 31310,''.

(B) DEFINITION.—Section 31306(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—