



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 7, 2018

Contact: Aaron Pickus, WACA, media@wacannabusiness.org; Brooke Davies, CORE, brooke@cannacore.org

Landmark legislation introduced by Senators Warren, Gardner to protect state cannabis marketplaces

60% of Americans now have access to legal cannabis state marketplaces, President Trump assures Senator Gardner he will not interfere, Senators introduce legislation to amend Controlled Substances Act

WASHINGTON – Today the Western Regional Cannabis Business Alliance (WRCBA) announced its support for legislation to amend the Controlled Substances Act on behalf of its members representing legal cannabis business owners across the country. The WRCBA represents legal cannabis business owners in Alaska, Hawaii, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Arizona and the American Trade Association for Cannabis and Hemp. The Washington CannaBusiness Association (WACA) and the Cannabis Organization of Retail Establishments (CORE) are founding members of the WRCBA.

Bipartisan legislation introduced today by Senators Warren (D-MA) and Gardner (R-CO) would amend the Controlled Substances Act to permit “manufacture, production, possession, distribution, dispensation, administration, or delivery of marihuana” in states where it is authorized pursuant to State law. This does not legalize marijuana at the federal level; instead, it respects states’ rights to create regulated cannabis marketplaces that reduce the size of the black market and increase public safety while keeping cannabis out of the hands of kids.

“We strongly urge our Congressional leaders to support this critical legislation to protect states and Tribal rights as well as the will of voters – regulated, legal cannabis marketplaces are reducing the size of the black market, which makes our communities safer and keeps pot out of the hands of minors,” said WACA board president Jim Mullen and CORE board member Eric Gaston in a joint statement. “As members of the Western Regional Cannabis Business Alliance, we support cannabis laws, regulations and policies at the regional- and federal-levels of government that uphold the safety, viability and quality of legal state cannabis marketplaces. This bipartisan legislation by

Senators Warren and Gardner will help keep our communities safe by respecting the growth of the nascent legal cannabis marketplace that seeks to eliminate the illicit and dangerous black market of the near past.”

They continued: “We praise their leadership along with Senator Murray, Senator Cantwell, Congressman Heck, Congressman Kilmer, Congresswoman DelBene, Congressman Newhouse, Congressman Smith, and Congressman Larsen in respecting the will of Washington State voters and the significant economic investments that have been made in Washington State.”

Countless law-abiding businesses have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in the State-regulated cannabis industry that experts estimate to be worth close to \$10 billion dollars today. In Washington, according to a study conducted by the Washington State Institute of Public Policy, more than 10,000 people are employed in the legal marketplace in our state as of 2016. The legal marketplace in Washington has generated almost \$1 billion in state tax revenue since its inception.

The WRCBA is comprised of state associations from Alaska, Hawaii, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Arizona committed to upholding the safety, viability and quality of their respective regulated cannabis marketplaces and strengthening a safer system than the black marketplace that strives to keep cannabis products away from minors.

###