

Trump's Cannabis Reform Support Called a Campaign Trick

Bipartisan Skepticism Surrounds Trump's Cannabis Reform Support

In a rare moment of bipartisan consensus, congressional lawmakers from both sides of the marijuana reform debate have expressed skepticism regarding former President Donald Trump's recent claims of support for federal cannabis rescheduling and industry banking access. Trump's endorsement of these issues, following a meeting with a major marijuana company CEO, has drawn criticism from both ends of the political spectrum.

AOC Calls Trump's Position a "Hail Mary"

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), a vocal advocate for ending federal marijuana prohibition, dismissed Trump's recent statements as insincere. "It sounds like a Hail Mary to me," she said, suggesting that the former president's support for cannabis reform is more about political maneuvering than genuine policy commitment. Ocasio-Cortez's remarks reflect broader skepticism about Trump's sudden alignment with marijuana reform.

Rep. Andy Harris Labels Trump's Stance as "Campaign Talk"

Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD), known for his anti-cannabis stance, also shrugged off Trump's comments. Harris, who has supported legislation blocking Washington, D.C.'s marijuana sales, characterized Trump's recent remarks as mere "campaign talk" with little substantive impact. Harris's view underscores a broader Republican reluctance to embrace cannabis reform.

Blumenauer Sees Opportunity for Bipartisan Unity

Despite the skepticism, some lawmakers see a potential silver lining. Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), co-chair of the Congressional Cannabis Caucus, noted that Trump's support, however insincere, highlights a rare bipartisan agreement on marijuana reform. Blumenauer acknowledged that Trump has been inconsistent on the issue since 2016, but he noted that the former president's recent statements could galvanize support for reform measures.

Harris Campaign Accuses Trump of "Blatant Pandering"

Vice President Kamala Harris's campaign has criticized Trump's marijuana reform position as a strategic ploy rather than a genuine policy shift. Campaign spokesperson Joseph Costello accused Trump of "blatant pandering," citing his administration's record on marijuana, which included crackdowns on nonviolent marijuana offenses. The Harris campaign's critique contrasts with its own silence on Harris's stance on marijuana reform.

Trump's Shifting Position on Cannabis Reform

Trump's recent endorsement of federal cannabis rescheduling and support for Florida's marijuana legalization ballot measure marks a notable shift from his previous stance. The former president has publicly discussed the benefits of legalization and hinted at supporting Florida's initiative, though his comments have often been vague. Trump's position follows a prior endorsement of Amendment 3 in Florida and discussions on the medical benefits of cannabis.

Roger Stone and GOP Perspectives on Cannabis Reform

GOP political operative Roger Stone, a supporter of the Florida legalization proposal, believes Trump's endorsement would significantly boost the measure's chances of success. Meanwhile, Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC), who sponsors the States Reform Act to federally legalize marijuana, expressed hope that Trump would back banking reform but acknowledged the apprehension many Republicans feel about embracing marijuana policy changes.

Challenges in Advancing Cannabis Banking Reform

Senator John Hickenlooper (D-CO) and other lawmakers have expressed skepticism about Trump's commitment to marijuana banking reform. Hickenlooper emphasized the need for Republican support to advance the Secure and Fair Enforcement Regulation (SAFER) Banking Act, which remains a challenge amid political uncertainty. Despite this, the Biden administration's push to reschedule cannabis is seen as a positive step towards facilitating banking reform.

Polling and Public Support for Cannabis Reform

As the November election approaches, polls indicate widespread support for marijuana legalization, federal rescheduling, and industry banking access among voters in key battleground states like Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. This public support could influence the political landscape and the future of cannabis reform legislation.

As Trump and Harris continue to navigate their positions on marijuana reform, the debate highlights the complexities of cannabis policy in the current political climate and the ongoing quest for comprehensive reform.

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