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Medical Marijuana Business Owners and Employees to Call on President Obama to Protect Jobs in State

News Conference Scheduled for 2 p.m. on April 24 in Advance of Obama Visit

Boulder, CO – President Barack Obama is scheduled to visit CU Boulder on Tuesday, near where US Attorney John Walsh is forcing at least three state-legal medical marijuana patient centers to close due to their proximity to campus. ACT 4 Colorado, Cannabis Business Alliance, National Cannabis Industry Association, Sensible Colorado, and the United Food and Commercial Workers Union are calling on President Obama to allow Colorado to manage its tightly regulated medical marijuana distribution model; redirect federal resources to issues that Coloradans are concerned about such as jobs, transportation, and violent crime.

“For every medical marijuana center closed by the order of U.S. Attorney Walsh, jobs are lost, contractors lose vital business, and license fees can no longer be collected,” reports Aaron Smith, Executive Director of the National Cannabis Industry Association. “The US Attorney tells us he is planning to target nearly 200 legitimate Colorado businesses, which could cost the state over 1,000 jobs as Colorado is struggling to recover from a deep recession and get its economy back on track. We are asking President Obama to do for employees of medical marijuana businesses what he does for employees of every other business: protect their jobs.”

According to Colorado’s Medical Marijuana Enforcement Division, nearly 3,000 people are licensed to work in the state’s medical marijuana industry. Legitimate medical marijuana businesses, all of which are either licensed by the state or have licenses pending, have generated over \$30 million in taxes and license fees at the local and state level.

Though US Attorney Walsh claims that protecting children from medical marijuana is his primary motivation for forcing the closure of these businesses, there have been no documented cases of sale to a minor in Colorado, and changes in youth marijuana rates do not correlate to the proximity of medical marijuana centers to schools.

Allies will gather for a news conference at 2pm on Tuesday, April 24 at The Hill Cannabis Club and Wellness Center, 1121 North Broadway Street, Boulder, CO. Speakers will include Mark Belkin, UFCW Local 7’s Community Affairs and Organizing Director; Aaron Smith, Executive Director, National Cannabis Industry Association; Kim Riese and Mike Matthews, owners, The Hill Cannabis Club; and Chelsey Joseph, CU Boulder student and employee of Colorado Dispensary Services.

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The National Cannabis Industry Association (NCIA) is the only national trade association working to advance the interests of cannabis-related businesses in the US. NCIA promotes the growth of a responsible and legitimate cannabis industry and works for a favorable social, economic and legal environment for that industry in the United States.