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# Assembly California Legislature



**EVAN LOW**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

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May 30, 2019

Tim Cook  
Chief Executive Officer  
Apple Inc.

Dear Mr. Cook,

I am writing in regards to the Apple App Store's policy of prohibiting applications that facilitate the sale of cannabis, which was made lawful in California through the voters' passage of Proposition 64 in 2016.

As you know, California law grants every adult over age 21 the right to purchase and consume cannabis and cannabis products. California has a robust regulatory scheme, administered by multiple state agencies, that promotes the availability of safe, tested products through a tracked supply chain of licensed businesses. Regulations propagated through an intensive 18-month public process are among the nation's most comprehensive and reflect rigorous consumer-protection manufacturing, testing, labeling, distribution and sale requirements.

The California State Legislature is working actively to break down barriers to lawful cannabis to ensure that consumers have access to safe cannabis products and alternatives to the black market. In light of this, Apple's policy of prohibiting applications that facilitate cannabis sales is of serious concern. While Apple apps are permitted to facilitate the sale of alcohol, tobacco, and prescription drugs including opioids, cannabis apps are singled out for exclusion on the platform, creating a significant barrier to lawful purchases.

As you know, cannabis is not only a legal right—it is a medical necessity for millions of Californians suffering from chronic pain, AIDS, PTSD, Parkinsons, and a range of other neurological, inflammatory, and chronic pain disorders. Today, these individuals have the right to buy legal cannabis statewide, without fear of prosecution or incarceration. And yet patients' ability to make this purchase via Apple's App Store, one of the most important digital commercial channels in the world, is non-existent. The effect of Apple's exclusionary policy is inadvertent support for illegal suppliers.

You and your team have the opportunity to support the will of California's voters and reinforce the values of openness, inclusion and diversity that Apple is known for. It is my hope that you will recognize that your current policy is out of step with the State of California's laws and values. I look forward to your reply, and welcome the opportunity to work with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evan Low", written over a horizontal line.

Assemblymember Evan Low  
28th Assembly District

*Serving the Communities of Silicon Valley, Campbell, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, San Jose, and Saratoga.*



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