



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Dear Governor Baker,

The emergency order issued on March 23, 2020 in light of the COVID-19 crisis requires recreational marijuana businesses to close their physical workplace to the general public. However, the order allows package stores (liquor stores) to continue operating because you consider them “Essential Services.” This has caused great harm to our local businesses - especially those that need economic empowerment the most.

In 2016, Massachusetts voters, through a ballot initiative, overwhelmingly voted in favor of legalizing the adult use of marijuana. Regulations were put in place to treat this newly legalized product similar to alcoholic beverages. We have a responsibility to ensure that this equity is upheld during these unprecedented times.

We understand social distancing protocols must be followed by workers in accordance with guidance from the CDC and MA Department of Public Health and are willing to work with you to find creative ways that keep our residents safe while not closing businesses that are most in need of our support at this time.

With that, we strongly urge you to include the sale of adult use cannabis in what is considered to be “COVID-19 Essential Services.” Our local businesses and new industry will not survive without this urgent change.

Chynah Tyler  
State Representative  
7th Suffolk District

Nick Collins  
State Senator  
1st Suffolk District

Liz Miranda  
State Representative  
5th Suffolk District

Sonia Chang-Diaz  
State Senator  
2nd Suffolk District

Jay Livingstone  
State Representative  
8th Suffolk District

Nika Elugardo  
State Representative  
15th Suffolk District

Kevin G. Honan  
State Representative  
17th Suffolk District

Michael F. Rush  
State Senator  
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Adrian Madaro  
State Representative  
1st Suffolk District

Daniel Hunt  
State Representative  
13th Suffolk District

Edward F. Coppinger  
State Representative  
10th Suffolk District

Elizabeth “Liz” A. Malia  
State Representative  
11th Suffolk District