



The Honorable Josh Hawley  
212 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Subject: SBA & Federal Assistance for Cannabis Industry

Date: April 22, 2020

Senator Hawley,

In January of this year, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services awarded the last of 338 licenses to Missouri businesses to cultivate, infuse and dispense medical marijuana to Missouri patients. This birth of Missouri's newest industry was made possible when a historic 66% of Missouri voters approved a constitutional amendment in 2018. These new license holders are now implementing their business plans, hiring thousands of Missourians, and building out their safe and secure facilities in every corner of the state.

Over the next several years our industry has the potential to be one of the fastest-growing industries across Missouri, which is needed now more than ever. This huge economic potential is part of why we were recently disappointed to see that the recent large-scale stimulus relief packages, including CARES, prohibited our medical cannabis industry from participating. Not only are valuable programs like the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program and Employee Retention Credits not available to the 338 licensed medical marijuana businesses in Missouri, but many ancillary companies are ineligible as well.

Given the important role the medical marijuana industry will play in Missouri's economy, as well as the need to generate local and state revenues to balance challenging upcoming budgets, we would ask that you consider allowing the industry to participate in any upcoming stimulus legislation. For example, the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program will need to be reauthorized and should be available to qualifying medical marijuana businesses in Missouri and across the nation.

In the United States, legal cannabis sales were on track to exceed [\\$15 billion in 2020](#), generating millions in tax revenue, and employing nearly [300,000 in direct and indirect jobs](#). Without this needed relief, employees won't be hired or retained, further hurting economic recovery efforts.

Thank you again for all you are doing to keep Missourians safe, healthy and economically secure. Our new industry has the real potential to be part of our state's economic recovery. But to do so, we need access to the same federal assistance opportunities that other Missouri small businesses have. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or our hundreds of members if you have questions or would like more information on this emerging industry.

Sincerely,

Andrew Mullins

MoCannTrade Executive Director