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Board of Supervisors

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Belia Ramos
Chair

July 18, 2017

The Honorable Dana Rohrabacher
United States Congress
2300 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: SUPPORT for House Resolution 975 (Rohrabacher, R-CA) – State Cannabis Laws

Dear Congressman Rohrabacher:

The Napa County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously today to support your bill, H.R. 975, that seeks to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow states to regulate cannabis without federal interference.

H.R. 975 would change the Act's regulatory controls and administrative, civil, and criminal penalties to allow a person to produce, possess, distribute, dispense, administer, or deliver cannabis in compliance with state laws. As you know, California voters have approved both Proposition 215 in 1996, allowing medical cannabis use, and Proposition 64 in 2016, allowing non-medical cannabis use. State and county resources have now been utilized to construct regulatory structures. Cannabis, however, remains largely illegal under federal law, whether as a medical or non-medical use. In recent years, the federal government has liberalized its policy with respect to cannabis. Obama Administration memos (which have not been expressly disavowed or repealed by the Trump Administration) make enforcement of cannabis laws a low priority for federal authorities in states that have regulatory schemes. H.R. 975 would remove the threat of dramatic federal policy changes in states that have legalized medical and non-medical cannabis use and allow those jurisdictions to proceed with constructing robust regulatory structures.

For these reasons, the Board unanimously supports H.R. 975 and looks forward to its passage into law.

Sincerely,

Belia Ramos
Chair, Napa County Board of Supervisors

cc: Congressman Mike Thompson
Members, Napa County Board of Supervisors
Minh Tran, Napa County Interim Executive Officer
Laura Morgan-Kessler, Van Scoyoc Associates
Rural County Representatives of California
California State Association of Counties