



March 11, 2022

The Honorable Mia Bonta
Assemblymember, 18th District
1021 O Street, Suite 5620
Sacramento, CA 94249-0025

**RE: AB 1706 (M. Bonta): Cannabis crimes: resentencing, as amended March 10, 2022
NOTICE OF SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Bonta:

The California Cannabis Industry Association (CCIA) is pleased to support your bill, AB 1706, which provides urgently needed solutions to the delayed implementation of California's automatic cannabis record-sealing statute, enacted in 2018 with the passage of AB 1793 (R. Bonta, Chapter 993).

Both Proposition 64 passed in 2016 and AB 1793, provided for relief from past cannabis convictions. AB 1793's automatic process ensured that an individual with an eligible record would not have to petition the court for relief. Instead, the process would happen automatically. This policy directly addressed the needs of individuals who are unable to access and/or complete the complicated and expensive petition process.

The implementation of AB 1793 has been inconsistent. The current law lacks certain deadlines to ensure completion of the process. While the law does include a deadline of July 1, 2020, for county district attorneys to provide data to the courts, there is no deadline by which courts must process these cases, and no oversight to ensure timely processing of records. There is wide variance in county implementation and compliance with the law, resulting in thousands of Californians not receiving the relief for which they are eligible. According to a recent investigation by the Los Angeles Times, there are at least 34,000 cannabis-related records that still have not been fully processed by the courts. AB 1706 establishes hard deadlines by which local courts and the Department of Justice must process these cannabis cases and update records in the state summary criminal history information database.

For these reasons, CCIA is pleased to support AB 1706, which puts key deadlines in place to remove erroneous criminal records and allow individuals criminalized by prohibition to move on with their lives.

Sincerely,

LINDSAY ROBINSON
Executive Director