

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4779

To protect States and individuals in States that have laws which permit the use of cannabis, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 11, 2018

Ms. LEE (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. POLIS, and Ms. TITUS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To protect States and individuals in States that have laws which permit the use of cannabis, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Restraining Excessive  
5       Federal Enforcement & Regulations of Cannabis Act of  
6       2018” or the “REFER Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON THE USE OF FUNDS.**

2 None of the funds made available by any Act of Con-  
3 gress to any department or agency of the United States  
4 may be used to—

5 (1) prevent a State or unit of local government  
6 from implementing or maintaining its State law or  
7 regulation that authorizes the use, distribution, pos-  
8 session, or cultivation of cannabis;

9 (2) detain, prosecute, sentence, or initiate civil  
10 proceedings against an individual, business or prop-  
11 erty, that is involved in the cultivation, distribution,  
12 possession, dispensation, or use of cannabis, in ac-  
13 cordance with the law or regulation of the State or  
14 unit of local government in which the individual is  
15 located; or

16 (3) penalize a financial institution solely be-  
17 cause the institution provides financial services to an  
18 entity that is a manufacturer, producer, or a person  
19 that participates in any business or organized activ-  
20 ity that involves handling cannabis or cannabis prod-  
21 ucts, or any related activity, and engages in such ac-  
22 tivity pursuant to a law or regulation established by  
23 a State or a unit of local government in which the  
24 financial institution is located.

25 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

26 In this Act:

1           (1) The term “financial institution” has the  
2           meaning given such term in section 5312 of title 31,  
3           United States Code.

4           (2) The term “State” means any State, the  
5           District of Columbia, any territory or possession of  
6           the United States, or any Indian tribal government.

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