



The Free to Grow Act of 2023

Reps. David Trone (D-MD), David Joyce (R-OH), Nancy Mace (R-SC), and Chellie Pingree (D-ME)

Background

Under the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 ("Farm Bill"), Congress legalized hemp cultivation and allowed for the transfer of hemp-derived products across state lines so long as it contained less than 0.3% THC. Since the passage of this law, the annual value of U.S. hemp production has grown to roughly \$800 million.

Despite the new expansive legal framework for hemp, the law prohibits people with a felony drug conviction within the past 10 years from cultivating hemp. This is yet another unfair collateral consequence that unjustly prevents hard-working Americans who have served their time from successfully reentering society. We should not continue to punish farmers with a drug felony record after they have clearly demonstrated a willingness to improve their lives.

About the Free to Grow Act of 2023

Specifically, the Free to Grow Act of 2023 would repeal Section 297B(e)(3)(B) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639p(e)(3)(B)) and end the unfair drug felony prohibition for hemp farmers.

Endorsed by: Americans for Prosperity, DREAM.Org, Drug Policy Alliance, Due Process Institute, Minorities for Medical Marijuana Cannabis & Hemp Policy, R St Institute, U.S. Hemp Roundtable.