

PRESS RELEASE

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Cannabis Equity Advocates Demand Accountability for Inaction on Cannabis Policy

Cannabis Equity Advocates and Social Equity businesses released the following statement regarding the failure to advance cannabis omnibus legislation, HB 2911:

Our Alliance, representing nonprofits, community advocates, Social Equity businesses, medical professionals, educators, and others, is outraged that cannabis legislation was blocked at the last legislative minute, again.

The Illinois House leadership ignored the efforts of many of their colleagues, as well as our work, and the entire Illinois cannabis community, by not calling the bill for a vote at all. We commend Senator Lightford for exceptional leadership this session. Senator Lightford's dedication to addressing this complex issue and her efforts to advance the package through the Senate are truly honorable.

We urge the Illinois House to advance the cannabis omnibus package, HB 2911, at the earliest opportunity.

We are also disappointed that a key provision, which would have expanded access to the medical patient program, was removed from HB 2911 during the Memorial Day weekend. We have learned that the Multi-State Operator, Green Thumb Industries (GTI), was behind this effort. **We condemn them for taking such dangerous, callous action at the eleventh hour.**

GTI's actions harm medical patients and mean that Social Equity businesses like dispensaries, Craft Growers, and Transporters will be denied critically needed relief. We call on our members and partners to boycott all GTI Stores, products, and events.

We express our deep gratitude to the remarkable Illinois Cannabis Community for their unwavering support. We thank everyone who attended our 4/18 Advocacy Day, joined our weekly policy meetings, called their lawmakers, and did so much more to support our efforts.

ACE looks forward to working with lawmakers & our members throughout the Summer to ensure this package is addressed as soon as possible.

Signed,

**Cannabis Equity IL Coalition
Chicago NORML
Chicago Independent Venue League
TheCannabisCommunity.org
Equity And Transformation
Gap Gyrllz & Gyz Consortium
Herb & Planning Associates**

**Illinois Equity Staffing
Illinois Minority Cannabis Business Organization
Illinois Women in Cannabis
Modern Compassionate Care
United Latino Cannabis Industry Alliance
Team Human Cultivation**

