



Americans for  
Safe Access

Advancing Legal Medical Cannabis Therapeutics

*CELEBRATING  
20 YEARS OF  
ADVOCACY!*

# 2022 IMPACT REPORT

UNTIL THERE IS SAFE ACCESS...  
WE ARE AMERICANS FOR SAFE ACCESS!

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## A MEDICAL CANNABIS PATIENT

IS A PERSON LIVING WITH A MEDICAL CONDITION OR EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS FOR WHICH CANNABIS OR A CANNABINOID-BASED THERAPEUTIC IS THE ONLY TREATMENT OPTION, A MORE SUITABLE OPTION, OR WORKS AS AN ADJUNCT TREATMENT INCLUDING SIDE-EFFECT MITIGATION TO OTHER AVAILABLE CARE OPTIONS.





MEDICAL CANNABIS IN THE US

6,000,000 LEGAL MEDICAL CANNABIS PATIENTS

93% POPULAR SUPPORT NATION-WIDE

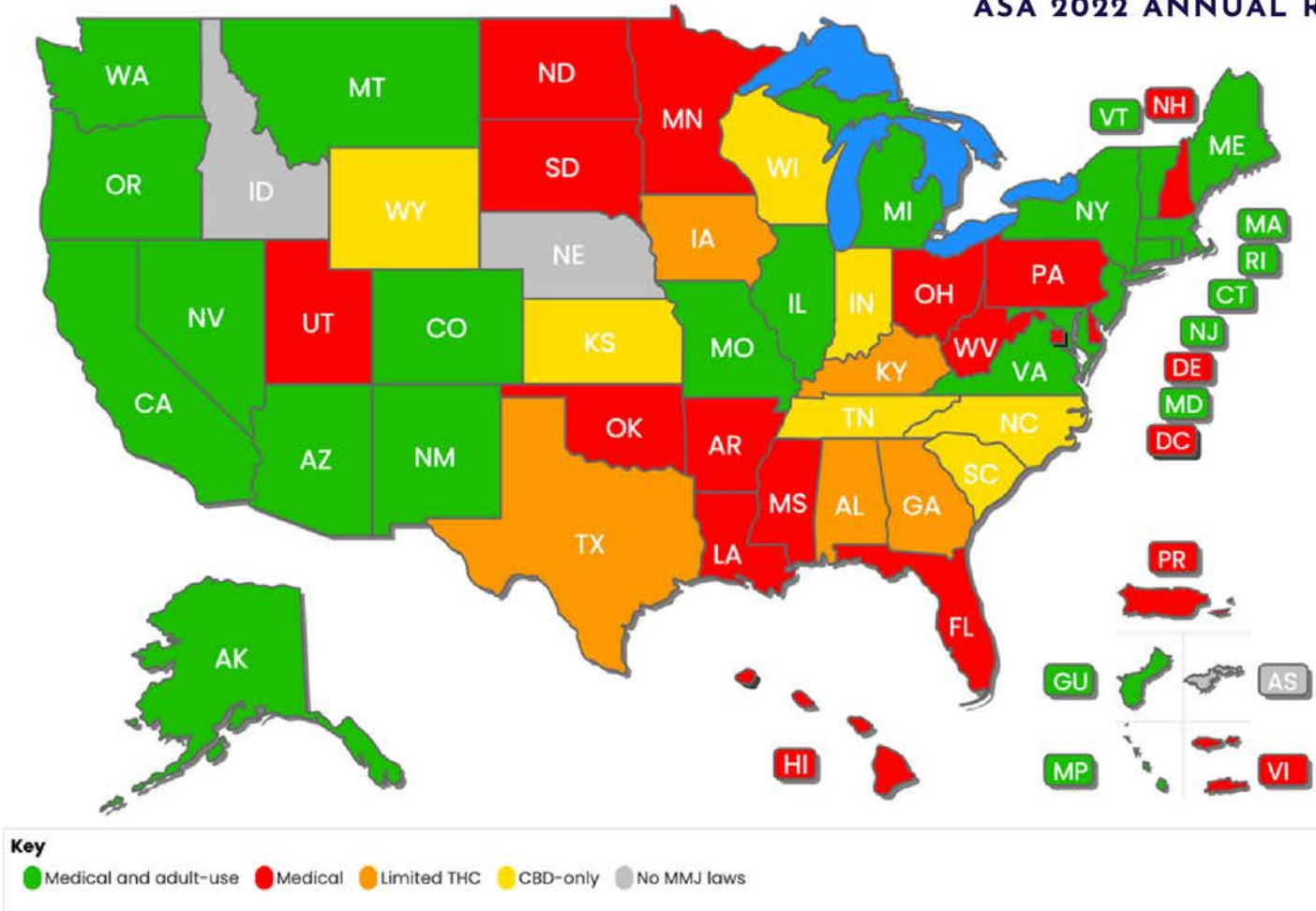
41 STATES WITH MEDICAL CANNABIS ACCESS PROGRAMS (PLUS D.C. & 4 TERRITORIES)

7 STATES WITH CBD PROGRAMS

8,000+ DISPENSARIES IN THE COUNTRY OPERATING WITH STATE LICENSES

500,000+ PEOPLE WORKING IN MEDICAL CANNABIS MARKET

98% AMERICANS LIVING IN STATES WITH MEDICAL CANNABIS LAWS



WHY WE ARE STILL FIGHTING

9,000,000 VETERANS USING VA HEALTH SERVICES

1,870,000 FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

112,846,000 AMERICANS LIVING WITH CHRONIC PAIN

44 OPIOID DEATHS EACH DAY

2,100,000 AMERICANS IN SECTION 8 HOUSING (23% ARE DISABLED)

1,720,000 AMERICANS IN HOSPICE

630,000 US POSTAL WORKERS

37,900,000 AMERICANS LIVING IN POVERTY



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# ASA'S VISION:

- International, federal & state laws recognize cannabis as a legal medicine.
- Medical professionals can prescribe medical cannabis options as a frontline treatment option or an adjunct therapy.
- End to stigma and discrimination for medical cannabis patients.
- Patients & their caregivers have the information they need to make educated choices about medical cannabis therapies.
- Patients & medical professionals can incorporate a diverse group of products & delivery methods to create required personalized treatment regimen.
- Patients can trust labels on products & that medicines are free of pesticides & contaminants.
- Medical cannabis treatments are covered by insurance.

We started Americans for Safe Access (ASA) in 2002 with the vision of creating a world in which patients would have access to safe and affordable cannabis-based therapeutics, where patients could talk to knowledgeable doctors about successfully integrating cannabis into their treatments as frontline options and have the option of using cannabis without fear of arrest, losing their job, their home or their children, where the harms of a drug war built on racism and targeting the poor would subside and create opportunity out of destruction.

This vision led us to create product safety standards for cannabis products, and CME courses on cannabis therapeutics, and model legislation at the state and federal level, to change the international scheduling of cannabis, and challenge the U.S. scheduling, and misinformation from the DEA on cannabis, to stop the raids on medical cannabis, and train thousands of patient advocates to lobby for their rights.

On paper, it looks like medical cannabis policy is doing well. Forty-one states have medical cannabis distribution programs, 93% support nationwide, six million legal medical cannabis patients. However, medical cannabis remains illegal federally, keeping these treatments out of reach for millions of Americans. Excluding patients living in states reluctant to pass medical cannabis laws, federal employees and contractors, and veterans utilizing VA medical services. In states with medical cannabis laws, these models do not address many medical or logistical needs for patients, only serving a privileged class of Americans.

ASA has built a strong infrastructure that allows us to still have a meaningful impact on a meager budget. However, in order to meet the challenges ahead we must keep fighting. We must push forward comprehensive federal medical cannabis legislation, work with state legislators to improve medical cannabis programs for patients educate patients and consumers about the importance of product safety, and create guidelines for businesses and regulators for standardized products and labels.

I know that if we stop fighting now, then we are leaving behind millions of Americans that don't have access and we risk our rights slipping away.

Because until there is safe access, WE are Americans for Safe Access!

Steph Sherer

Americans for Access  
President and Founder







## ASA'S BELIEFS & VALUES

CANNABIS IS A VALUABLE MEDICINE.

POLICIES MUST BE CREATED WITH THOSE WHO ARE IMPACTED

CANNABIS SHOULD BE UTILIZED AS A FRONTLINE TREATMENT OPTION BY MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS.

NO ONE SHOULD BE DENIED ACCESS TO OR BE PENALIZED FOR USING CANNABIS TREATMENTS.

THE CURRENT FEDERAL POLICY ON MEDICAL CANNABIS IS HYPOCRITICAL, IMMORAL & A VIOLATION OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS.

EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO PRODUCE, ACQUIRE & USE THEIR OWN MEDICINE.

CONSUMERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT IS IN THEIR CANNABIS PRODUCTS & HOW THEY WERE PRODUCED.

ALL STAKEHOLDERS HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN CREATING SAFE ACCESS.

ADULT-USE PROGRAMS CANNOT REPLACE MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAMS.

CANNABIS TREATMENTS SHOULD BE COVERED BY INSURANCE.

ALL CANNABIS PRODUCTS SOLD FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION SHOULD BE HELD TO PRODUCT & WORKER SAFETY STANDARDS.

NO ONE SHOULD GO TO JAIL FOR CANNABIS, ANYONE SERVING TIME SHOULD BE RELEASED, ALL RECORDS OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED SHOULD BE EXPUNGED & REPARATIONS SHOULD BE MADE TO INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY CANNABIS PROHIBITION.

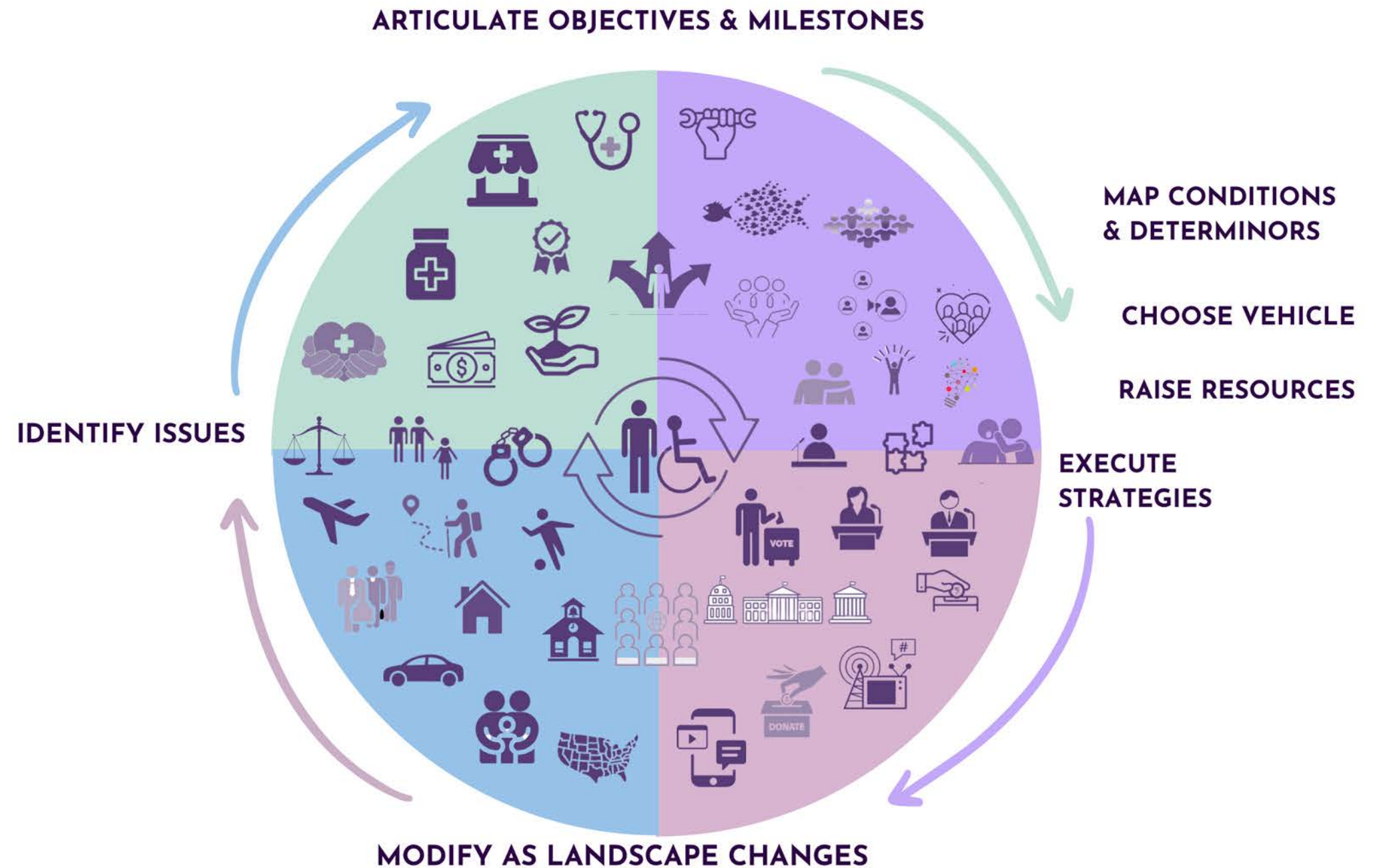




# ASA'S APPROACH TO CHANGE

For 20 years ASA has been carrying out a strategic plan to create safe access for all Americans. We envision a world in which patients have access to safe and affordable cannabis-based therapeutics. A world where patients can talk to knowledgeable doctors about successfully integrating cannabis into their treatments as frontline options, where patients can use cannabis without fear of arrest, losing their job, their home or their children, where the harms of a drug war built on racism and targeting the poor will subside and create opportunities out of destruction, where a patient only has to think about their medicine when they were talking to their doctor or taking it, not struggling to afford it or fearing it's ramifications.

This vision has led us to creating product safety standards for cannabis products with the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA), to work with doctors to create CME courses on cannabis therapeutics, to work to change the international scheduling of cannabis, to challenge the U.S. scheduling through both creative bureaucratic channels and the courts, to challenge misinformation from the DEA about cannabis, to create model legislation at the state and federal level, to pass federal legislation to stop the raids on medical cannabis, and to train thousands of patient advocates to understand legislation and regulations and lobby for their rights.



- Empower Impacted Individuals
- Clearly Articulate Vision
- Seek Out Advisors & Experts
- Don't Reinvent the Wheel
- Understand & Adapt to Landscape
- Choose Targets Strategically
- Sharpen and Utilize All Tools
- Create Missing Tools

- Demystify Power
- Coalition Building
- Support Stakeholders
- Leverage All Resources
- Fundraise Only to Serve the Mission
- ASA is a Vehicle for Change & One Day Should No Longer Be Needed



## ENDED FEDERAL RAIDS & PROSECUTION

ASA began in the wake of the Bush Administration's heightened attack on medical cannabis collectives in California that included paramilitary-style raids.

Our earlier work included hosting raid-preparedness trainings for cannabis providers, organizing advocates around the country to protest during and after raids, and organizing court support for those being prosecuted.

- PASSED CJS AMENDMENT EVERY YEAR 2014-2022
- ORGANIZED THOUSANDS OF CONSTITUENT MEETINGS
- GENERATED OVER 1 MIL EMAILS TO CONGRESS
- HELD DOZENS OF CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS
- ORGANIZED OVER 200 RAID RESPONSES
- ORGANIZED COURT SUPPORT FOR DOZENS OF MEDICAL CANNABIS PROVIDERS
- TARGETED BAD ACTORS IN AD CAMPAIGNS
- REGISTERED & EDUCATED VOTERS





## EXPANDED ACCESS

ASA monitored police enforcement, suing state agencies that refused to implement medical cannabis laws, and working with city and state governments to legalize medical cannabis distribution.

- PASSED FIRST DISTRIBUTION LAWS
- CREATED ACCESS PROGRAM LEGISLATION
- ADDED PATIENT CIVIL PROTECTIONS TO STATE PROGRAMS
- WON LAWSUITS AGAINST CHP, DMV, & CITIES
- WON FEDERAL PRE-EMPTION LAWSUIT
- HELPED CREATE PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARDS
- EXPANDED QUALIFYING CONDITIONS LISTS IN EVERY STATE
- HOSTED 50+ STATE LOBBY DAYS





## EMPOWERED A MOVEMENT

- TRAINED THOUSANDS OF ADVOCATES IN CITIZEN LOBBYING
- HELD KNOW YOUR RIGHTS TRAININGS ACROSS THE COUNTRY
- PROVIDED LEGAL SUPPORT
- HELD ADVOCATE BOOTCAMPS & TRAINING DAYS
- PROVIDE EDUCATION & OUTREACH MATERIALS
- PARTNERED WITH CME PROVIDERS TO CREATE MEDICAL CANNABIS CONTENT
- HELD HUNDREDS OF RAID-PREPAREDNESS TRAINING EVENTS







FEDERAL  
BILLS  
PASSED



NEW MEDICAL  
CANNABIS PROGRAM  
MISSISSIPPI



THOUSAND  
NEW LICENSED  
MEDICAL CANNABIS  
RETAILERS



AMICUS  
BRIEFS  
FILED



STAKEHOLDER  
GROUPS FORMED IN  
CA, NY & TX



MILLION  
NEW LEGAL MEDICAL  
CANNABIS PATIENTS  
6 MILLION TOTAL US



THOUSAND  
SUPPORTERS  
10K IN 2022



THOUSAND  
VISITS TO ASA  
STAKEHOLDER  
RESOURCE PAGES



THOUSAND  
IMPRESSIONS  
SOCIAL MEDIA



NEW  
ASA  
CHAPTERS



THOUSAND  
DATA POINTS IN  
SOS REPORT



THOUSAND  
VIEWS OF ASA  
VIDEOS



CONFERENCES  
& EVENTS



THOUSAND  
VIEWS OF 2022  
UNITY CONTENT



THOUSAND  
DOWNLOADS OF  
SOS REPORT



2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: FEDERAL



ASA and our members helped pass two meaningful pieces of legislation in 2022, the Medical Cannabis amendment to the Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) Appropriations bill which we first passed in 2014 that prohibits the Department of Justice from arresting anyone participating in the state medical cannabis programs and The Medical Marijuana and Cannabidiol Research Act which we helped get introduced in 2016.

Biden: Patient Equity Starts with You Campaign - Presented President Biden with reforms that his administration could implement that would improve the lives of medical cannabis patients can and demanded action. After a series of media outreach, support outreach campaigns and direct engagement with the Administration, President Biden announced federal cannabis pardons and called for a review of scheduling of cannabis.



The 2022 National Medical Cannabis Unity Conference coincided with ASA's 20th anniversary and explored the topics of "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" for the medical cannabis movement.



ASA created the Vote Medical Marijuana voter guide to provide critical information to voters about which elected officials support medical cannabis legislation. Vote Medical Marijuana helps medical cannabis patients, caregivers, and supporters determine if their Congressional representation is doing everything possible to help move cannabis policy forward.

ASA, with INCBA, filed an Amicus Brief in support of Joy Tea, Inc. Trademark Protection arguing that through the United States Patent Trademark Office's (USPTO) per se application of the "lawful use requirement" to the cannabis products and businesses, consumers are denied the right to trust brands and product labels.

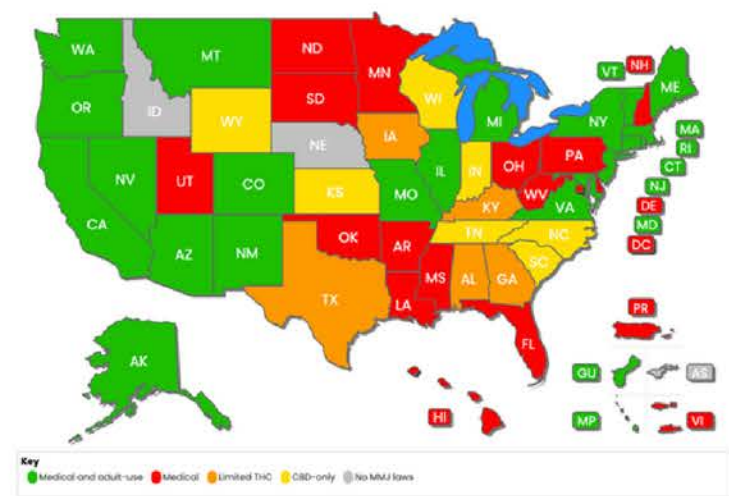


ASA represented patients in the 117th Congress, including providing suggested amendments to legislative proposals such as the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement (MORE) Act, the Cannabis Administration and Opportunity Act (CAOA) and the Post-Prohibition Adult Use Regulatory Environment (PREPARE).





2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: STATE



Mississippi passed comprehensive reform and two states converted from CBD only to limited THC - Alabama and Iowa both made improvements to their programs to allow limited amounts of THC.

Solidifying gains won for patients from Emergency COVID Measures: Prior to 2020, very few states provided alternative accessibility methods, like delivery and curbside pickup or allowed telemedicine. A majority of states with medical cannabis programs rightfully acknowledged that access is essential for patients and instituted temporary measures that aligned with many of our recommendations. ASA successfully lobbied states to keep these measures after states eased COVID restrictions.

Americans for Safe Access, along with Pregnancy Justice (formerly National Advocates for Pregnant Women), Academy of Perinatal Harm Reduction, North American Society of Psychosocial Obstetrics and Gynecology, National Perinatal Association, and comedian Amy Schumer filed an amicus brief, in support of an Arizona mother, urging the court to protect parents who benefit from medical cannabis.

In January, the Arizona Supreme Court declined to accept an appeal from the Arizona Department of Child Safety, letting stand a lower court decision that Lindsay Ridgell’s medicinal use of cannabis while pregnant did not constitute child neglect and ordered her name be removed from the state’s child abuse registry.

**New Blog Alert**

**ASA Demanded a Pregnant Medical Cannabis Patient Should Not be on a Child-Abuse Registry... and the AZ Supreme Court Agreed!**

ASA is proud to be a part of this huge step in protecting patients' rights in Arizona and we hope that other states will follow suit in protecting the rights of medical cannabis patients. ASA commends Lindsay Ridgell for her bravery in taking on this fight; her victory will impact countless mothers in the future.



READ THE FULL STORY AT  
[WWW.SAFEACCESSNOW.ORG/AZPREGNANCYRULING](http://WWW.SAFEACCESSNOW.ORG/AZPREGNANCYRULING)

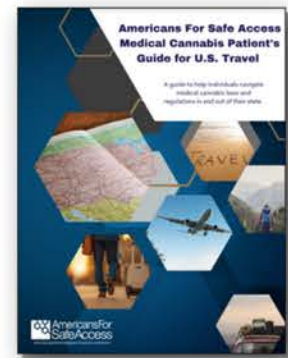


ASA's State of the States Report Outreach: ASA utilized this report as a tool to reach out directly to state legislators and regulators with recommendations for improvements to programs. ASA also encouraged our supporters to use the report to engage with their representatives about issues with their programs generating thousands of emails and hundreds of meetings.

ASA helps stakeholders learn how to advocate for their needs by creating resources that anyone can use to advocate in their state, including testimony language, template letters, and model legislative language to improve laws and regulations.

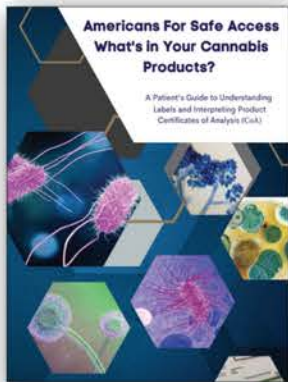


Patients come to ASA at varying points in their journey with medical cannabis. ASA offers a variety of free resources to help patients make informed decisions about using cannabis as a treatment option.



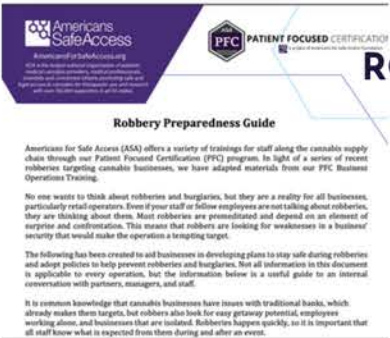
MEDICAL CANNABIS PATIENT’S GUIDE FOR U.S. TRAVEL

Updated annually, this online guide aims to help individuals navigate medical cannabis laws and regulations in and out of their state and includes reciprocity laws in applicable states.



WHAT’S IN YOUR CANNABIS PRODUCTS?

A guide to help patients understand the labels and certificates of analysis (COA) of their cannabis products.



ROBBERY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

Aids businesses in developing plans to stay safe during robberies and adopt policies to help prevent robberies and burglaries.



STATE OF THE STATES REPORT

Provides a detailed analysis of the state of medical cannabis programs in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and four U.S. territories on an ‘A’ to ‘F’ scale



Newsletters

ASA’s monthly newsletter includes information about current medical cannabis bills, the latest medical cannabis news, ASA events, action alerts and an activist spotlight.



ASK THE DOCTOR WEBATHON

Co-hosted by ASA and the Association of Cannabinoid Specialists, the webinar gave attendees question and answer time with four cannabis medical professional specialists in the areas of pain management, pediatrics, neurodegenerative disease and mental health.

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND RESPONSIBLE USE WEBINAR

Hosted by Rootworks, featuring ASA Executive Director, Debbie Churgai, the webinar explored how the industry can promote responsible cannabis use that puts consumers’ needs, health, and safety first.



PFC PRODUCT SAFETY RECALLS WEBINAR

Vape Cartridges - Hosted by ASA, the webinar discussed cannabis adulterants, how you can watch out for potentially harmful products, and what regulators should be doing to prevent these problems.



BLOGS

ASA posted 17 blogs in 2022, including topics on current medical cannabis bills and what they mean for patients, how to talk to state representatives, product safety recalls, take-aways from ASA’s 2021 State of the State report, and national advocacy efforts.

CANNABIS RESEARCH: SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION WEBINAR

Presented by the Council for Federal Regulation, featuring ASA President Steph Sherer, the webinar helped participants better understand viable treatment options, effective treatments, and what research still needs to be done to ensure public health and safety.



2021 STATE OF THE STATES WEBINAR

Hosted by ASA, the webinar discussed ASA’s 2021 State of the States report and how state medical cannabis programs fared in 2021, as well as what we expected to see from medical cannabis programs in 2022.



# 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: OUTREACH & MOVEMENT BUILDING

## CONFERENCES & EVENTS

- Cannabis Science Conference: Long Beach, MD
- Cannabis Science Conference: Baltimore, MD
- MJ Unpacked Conference: Las Vegas, NV
- MJ Biz Conference: Las Vegas, NV
- CANNRA Stakeholder Meeting: Seattle, WA
- ASA Unity Conference :Washington, DC
- International Cannabis Bar Association (INCBA)
- Cannabis Law Institute Conference: Washington, DC
- The Science of Cannabis Testing - Online Symposium
- University of Maryland School of Pharmacy Medical Cannabis Spring and Fall 2022 Symposium: Rockville, MD
- California State Fair: Sacramento, CA





2022 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS





PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF PHARMACY  
CANNABIS SCIENCE + THERAPEUTICS PROGRAM

The Cannabis Advocacy for Patients and Public Health course created by ASA explores the factors that influence health outcomes of individuals and populations and introduces skills necessary to be an effective medical cannabis policy analyst or policy advocate.

Through this program, ASA has been able to recruit amazing volunteers, who not only understand the importance of ASA’s mission, but who truly understand the science behind cannabis, and the need for continued advocacy to help advance the therapeutic possibilities for patients. Volunteers from this program currently help ASA with development, field coordination, and with our annual National Medical Cannabis Unity conference.



Bennabis Health  
Farmer Freeman  
Evoke Law  
Dr. Bronners  
3C  
Takoma Wellness  
Canopy  
National Pain Relief  
AHPA  
BASA  
Orange Photonics  
Healer  
Columbia Care  
University of Maryland  
Supply Chain OpEx Consulting  
Balanced Veterans Network  
You KTI Collective  
CFCR  
METRC  
Weedmaps  
Curio Wellness  
The People's Ecosystem  
StreetPulse  
New Cannabis Ventures  
Cannabis Patient Care Magazine  
MJ Unpacked  
The Grow Off  
Cannabis for Cancer Declaration  
SnapSlide

ASA's 10th Annual National Medical Cannabis Unity Conference

We

Unity 2022 Sponsors!

Logos: CANOPY GROWTH CORPORATION, 3C Comprehensive Cannabis Consulting, metrc, takoma wellness center, DR. BRONNER'S ALL-ONE!, Columbia Care, AHPA, EVOKE LAW, Healer, youkti, NATIONAL PAIN RELIEF, CCD CANNABIS FOR CANCER DECLARATION, CFCR Council For Federal Cannabis Regulation, Cannabiz MD, SUPPLY CHAIN OPEX CONSULTING, AmericansForSafeAccess.

We would like to thank the following businesses for helping us in the distribution of this report.

Logos: wmpolicy, EVOKE, 3C Comprehensive Cannabis Consulting, SUPPLY CHAIN OPEX CONSULTING, THE PEOPLE'S MEDICINE, Far & Dotter, grand CONSULTING, Thought Coach.

COVID-19

RSVP today for the **FREE** "Essential Cannabis Workers Stay Safe" Training Webinar

**Friday, April 17**  
9am to 10 am PST/  
12pm to 1 pm EST

[www.safeaccessnow.org/sanitation](http://www.safeaccessnow.org/sanitation)

Logos: PFC PATIENT FOCUSED CERTIFICATION, AmericansForSafeAccess, Sponsored By: weedmaps.

Logos: UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND SCHOOL OF PHARMACY, CANOPY GROWTH CORPORATION, DR. BRONNER'S ALL-ONE, takoma wellness center, DC'S FAMILY-RUN MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARY, EVOKE LAW, STREETPULSE, weedmaps, CCD CANNABIS FOR CANCER DECLARATION, youkti, FARMER FREEMAN, BASA COLLECTIVE, Columbia Care, Healer.

Thriving with Cancer through Cannabis Therapeutics!

Brought to you by: AmericansForSafeAccess, Holistic Caring

Sponsored by: weedmaps, DR. BRONNER'S MAGIC 'ALL-ONE!'

[www.safeaccessnow.org/cancer21](http://www.safeaccessnow.org/cancer21)

Veterans Medical Cannabis Roundtable Discussion

Tuesday, November 10, 2020  
4 p.m. to 6 p.m. ET

Partners: Veterans Medical Cannabis Initiative 22, HARVEST 360, MISSION, VETERANS ALLIANCE

Sponsors: weedmaps, eaze

Logos: AmericansForSafeAccess, All are welcome!

Medical Cannabis Symposium for Pediatric Neurological Conditions

September 26, 2020  
12pm - 6pm (ET)

Featuring: Dr. Bonni Goldstein, Dr. Dustin Sulak

[www.AmericansForSafeAccess.org/neuro20](http://www.AmericansForSafeAccess.org/neuro20)

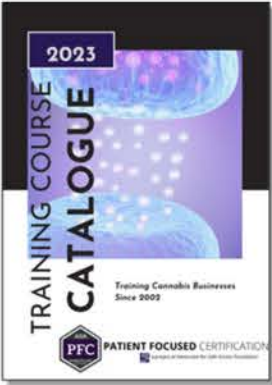
Thanks to our Sponsors: eaze, canniatric, CannaSafe, RISE, ASA



# LOOKING TO 2023: DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

In 2023, ASA is adapting to the current landscape and incorporating the following activities into our traditional fundraising efforts.

**Overhaul of Sponsorship Program:** In an attempt to adapt to the current financial realities of cannabis businesses and limited resources available for outreach, ASA overhauled our sponsorship program to include non-financial options, such as outreach activities, that can be used toward sponsorship levels. Our hope is this new program will meet cannabis companies where they are financially, while leveraging their access to ASA stakeholders. ASA’s Sponsorship Program creates an opportunity for companies not only to put funds directly into the movement but also offers activities to help leverage additional resources toward our mission.



**Expanding Patient Focused Certification Program:** PFC is currently approved as the Medical Cannabis Certification Training Provider in Washington, DC, Responsible Vendor in Illinois for staff training, GAP/GMP Certifier in Michigan and Hemp, and GMP Certifier in New York. In 2022, ASA trained new auditors for the program and worked with DC officials to require companies to enroll their staff in ASA’s training.

**Broadening Outreach to Build Membership:** ASA has created website widgets that companies and partners can utilize to provide their members/customers with up-to-date information on medical cannabis laws.



## FUNDRAISING GOALS 2023

- \$ 200,000 Unity Conference
- \$ 100,000 PFC Staff
- \$ 260,000 What's in Your Medicine Campaign
- \$ 150,000 Medical Cannabis Equity Program
- \$ 350,000 Safe Access 4 All Campaign
- \$ 50,000 Admin
- \$ 300,000 Program Staff
- \$ 1,410,000 Total



**Launching the ASA Exchange-**The ASA Exchange is a fundraising platform that will connect our members and audience to ancillary products they want and need as medical cannabis patients and advocates and to the companies and people that make them. The ASA Exchange will be a commerce platform that is integrated into ASA’s existing outreach platforms; creating a patient friendly shopping experience that is backed by a brand they already know and trust, ASA. The platform will generate revenue through sales and sponsored content.



# LOOKING TO 2023: CAMPAIGN STRATEGIES

## BARRIERS TO SAFE ACCESS 2023

Cannabis is a Schedule I Substance \* Cannabis Federally Illegal \* State Programs Fall Short of Serving and Protecting Patients \* Adult-Use State Programs Are Harming Medical Cannabis Programs \* Wellness Consumers do Not Identify as Patients and Are Not Participating in Advocacy \* Cannabis Businesses are Not Participating in Outreach and Advocacy Efforts\* Public Thinks the Fight for Medical Cannabis Has Been Won \* Cannabis Research is Primarily Observational \* Patients have Challenges Finding Standardized, Properly Labeled Products\* Costs are a Major Barrier for Patients Utilizing Cannabis Therapeutics \* Backlash Brewing Around Unregulated Cannabis and Cannabinoid Market and Youth Access \* Cannabis Businesses are Prioritizing Adult-Use Consumers \* Individuals That Could Benefit from Cannabis Treatments Are Forced to Choose Other Treatments Due to Lack of Information, Discrimination, Employment, Housing and Access to Government Resources \* No Creditable Source for Cannabis Information \* Non-cannabis Business Donors have Moved On

## 2023 CAMPAIGNS

### SAFE ACCESS FOR ALL CAMPAIGN **SAFE ACCESS FOR ALL IS NOT A SLOGAN; IT'S A BATTLE CRY & IT IS NOT NEGOTIABLE!**

**GOALS:**

- Raise awareness about patient issues caused by federal prohibition
- Pass comprehensive federal medical cannabis legislation

25 years of implementing state medical cannabis laws has proved that comprehensive federal medical cannabis legislation is the only way all Americans will have safe access. The Safe Access for All Campaign will galvanize national support to create a federal medical cannabis program.



### STATE MEDICAL CANNABIS EQUITY CAMPAIGN **A STRATEGY TO ADDRESS PATIENT NEEDS IN ADULT-USE MARKETS**

**GOALS:**

- Raise awareness about patient issues in adult-use markets
- Pass legislation in states with adult-use programs
- Amend adult-use proposals before they are passed at the state level

The "Medical Cannabis Equity Checklist" is at the heart of this campaign: policy reforms accompanied with legislative language that can be modified for each state to address issues arising from regulating dual cannabis programs while addressing issues that have historically created challenges for patients.

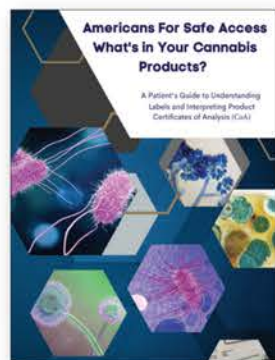


### WHAT'S IN YOUR CANNABIS? **CANNABIS PATIENT & CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

**GOALS:**

- Educate consumers about importance of product safety
- Improve product safety

The prevalence of cannabis products being sold in regulated and unregulated markets gives consumers a false sense of security of the safety of these products. The *What's in Your Cannabis?* Campaign will educate patients and consumers on potential harms of contaminated cannabis products, the importance of knowing how they are produced, how to protect themselves and how to get involved.





ASA's National Medical Cannabis Unity conference started in 2013 as a space for medical cannabis patients and caregivers, and those interested in learning more about medical cannabis to hear from experts on issues that mattered to them.

Each year, the Unity conference brings together patients and cannabis stakeholders to learn about the latest trends in cannabis research, and policy, participate in advocacy training and meet with their federal representatives during ASA's Lobby Day.



As part of every conference, ASA staff set meetings for attendees to meet with their federal representatives during ASA's Lobby Day, the largest medical cannabis citizen lobby event of the year.





# MEDICAL CANNABIS STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT AND EMPOWERMENT

For the last 20 years, ASA has been arming patient advocates with knowledge, tools and skills to advocate for themselves through strategic planning, public speaking, bill drafting, media outreach and citizen lobbying. Successful medical cannabis policy and programs require participation from all stakeholders. ASA provides education, trainings, direct support, tools for navigating medical cannabis laws state-by-state and many other resources for patients, caregivers, cannabis providers, advocates, and medical professionals. Most resources are available on ASA's website [www.SafeAccessNow.org](http://www.SafeAccessNow.org).

## 20 YEARS OF ADVOCACY

### PATIENTS & CAREGIVERS

- Host webpages with up-to-date information about their state program
- Held Know Your Rights Trainings across the country
- Created guides to using medical cannabis and CBD
- Created medical condition specific information guides for using cannabis
- Created resources to help patients learn how to talk to their doctor
- Created guides on how to read labels and COA's
- Provided information for safe home gardening
- Provided Legal Support
- Hosted Public Defender trainings
- Created a Travel Guide for Patients
- Created hundreds of blogs on special issues such as pediatric patient access in schools, how to talk to your state representatives, and summaries of federal bills
- Hosted dozens of webinar on special issues such as Ask the Doctor, Cancer through Cannabis Therapeutics, and Product Safety

### ADVOCATES

- Trained hundreds of thousands of advocates on participating in democracy
- Held Advocate Bootcamps and Training days
- Provide education and outreach materials
- Host ASA's Advocacy Training Center on ASA's Website

### POLICYMAKERS & REGULATORS

- Created Model Legislation
- Created Model Regulations
- Created dozens of fact sheets
- Created State of the State's Report with state recommendations for improvements
- Created the PFC Program to help businesses stay compliant and safe
- Provide legislative drafting input and support

### MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

- Host webpages with up-to-date information about their state program
- Partnered with CME providers to create medical cannabis content
- Medical Condition specific information guides for using cannabis
- Provide and support access to cannabis research

### CANNABIS BUSINESSES

- Held hundreds of Raid-Preparedness Trainings
- Created Health and Safety training for staff during COVID
- Created Robbery Preparedness Tools
- Offer Training on Product Safety Protocols
- Created PFC Program - Staff training and business certification





# FEDERAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

ASA’s Federal Advocacy Project works to broaden support for medical cannabis on Capitol Hill through direct engagement with members of Congress, administrative agencies and national institutes.

ASA coordinates a diverse coalition of stakeholders, connects ASA members with their elected officials, monitors all federal legislative/regulatory actions, drafts and analyzes legislative/regulatory proposals with Congressional and agency staff, publishes reports and white papers and provides testimony as needed. The project has passed several appropriations amendments and works with Congressional champions to introduce medical cannabis legislation.



## 20 YEARS OF ADVOCACY

### CONGRESS

- Ended Federal Raids-Passing the CJS Amendment
- Passed CJS Amendment every year 2014-2022
- Organized Thousands of Constituent Meetings
- Generated over 1mil emails to Congress
- Passed The Medical Marijuana and Cannabidiol Research Act
- Held dozens of Congressional Briefings
- Organized diverse stakeholders behind federal legislative proposals
- Removed Amendment prohibiting DC from implementing medical cannabis program
- Provided legislative drafting input and support

### REMOVED FEDERAL BARRIERS

- Changed Scheduling of Cannabis at UN
- Successfully challenged DEA to stop spreading misinformation: Gateway Theory and Cannabis Induced Psychosis in their materials and website

### RESEARCH

- Opened up DEA licenses for cannabis research
- Removing barriers for cannabis research
- Successfully lobbied CDC to urge pain clinics to stop testing clients for THC

### PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Organized over 200 Raid Responses
- Organized Court support for dozens of medical cannabis providers
- Targeted bad actors in ad campaigns
- Registered and educated voters

### VICTORY!

21 - 9

Senate Committee Votes to Protect Patients!

Yes Votes	No Votes
• Barbara Mikulski, MD	• Thad Cochran, MS
• Patrick Leahy, VT	• Mitch McConnell, KY
• Patty Murray, WA	• Richard Shelby, AL
• Dick Durbin, IL	• Lindsey Graham, SC
• Jack Reed, RI	• Mark Kirk, IL
• Jon Tester, MT	• John Hoeven, ND
• Jeanne Shaheen, NH	• John Boozman, AR
• Jeff Merkley, OR	• James Lankford, OK
• Chris Coons, DE	• Dianne Feinstein, CA
• Brian Schatz, HI	
• Tammy Baldwin, WI	
• Chris Murphy, CT	
• Lamar Alexander, TN	
• Susan Collins, ME	
• Lisa Murkowski, AK	

Senate Appropriations Committee Approves Mikulski Medical Marijuana Amendment to CJS

### POTUS-EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- Made Medical Cannabis a Topic of 4 Presidential Campaigns
- Sued HHS, DEA, and DOJ over scheduling
- Testified before FDA
- Successfully lobbied CDC to urge pain clinics to stop testing clients for THC

### REPORTS

- What’s the Cost Report
- Medical Cannabis in the US: Briefing Book
- Third Time is a Charm Report
- 8 Factor Analysis Report
- Medical Cannabis Access for Pain Treatment: Medical Cannabis as a Tool to Combat Pain and Opioid Crisis report
- The DEA’s Denial of Existing Medical Cannabis Research report



# STATE ADVOCACY PROJECT

ASA's State Advocacy Project draws out strategic plans for improving safe access in individual states across the nation. This includes coordinating with coalitions, providing model state legislation and regulations, monitoring legislative and regulatory actions, analyzing legislative/regulatory proposals and keeping our members informed about developments. ASA works with stakeholders to create campaign tools as needed and provides expert testimony for state legislators and regulators.



## 20 YEARS OF ADVOCACY

### LEGISLATION & REGULATIONS

- Passed first distribution laws
- Created model access program legislation that included civil protections
- Passed legislation in 48 states, 4 territories and DC
- Partnered with AHPA and AHP to create product safety standards for cannabis/hemp supply chain
- Expanded accepted qualifying conditions lists in every state
- Developed and expanded patient priorities in states with adult-use laws
- Hosted 50+ state lobby days
- Trained thousands of advocates on citizen lobbying
- Provided testimony and comments for dozens of state bills
- Created hundreds of action alert template letters to help advance state-specific bills
- Provided legislative drafting input and support

### IMPACT LITIGATION

- Won lawsuits against CHP, DMV, and cities for violating patients' rights
- Won federal Pre-emption lawsuit-forcing states to implement medical cannabis laws regardless of federal law

### PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Targeted bad actors in ad campaigns
- Successfully lobbied Governors to make medical cannabis businesses essential during COVID Pandemic

### REPORTS

- Out of Compliance Report
- Dispensaries and Our Community Report
- Medical Cannabis as a Tool to Combat Pain and the Opioid Crisis: A Blueprint for State Policy Report
- State of the States Reports every year since 2014

## PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

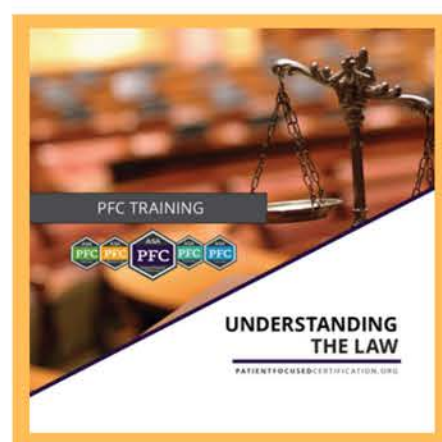
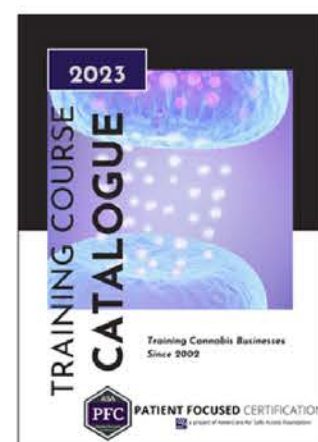






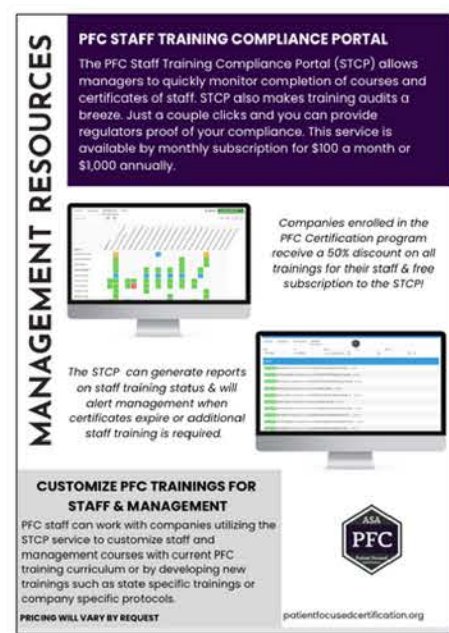
ASA's Patient Focused Cannabis (PFC) Program is a globally recognized (ISO 17065 accredited) third-party certification and training program designed for all businesses in the cannabis and hemp supply chain.

PFC trainings are available online and include disciplines in Cultivation, Manufacturing, Distribution, and Laboratory. The PFC training program prepares individuals for jobs in cannabis businesses with an understanding of required safety and operational protocols, while teaching them the basics of cannabis as medicine and common therapeutic uses of cannabis.



## 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Trained over 500 staff agents in states across the country
- Recruited and trained new auditors
- Renewed Medical Cannabis Certification Provider in Washington, DC
- Became authorized Responsible Vendor in Illinois
- Became authorized GAP/GMP Certifier in Michigan
- Became authorized Hemp GMP Certifier in New York
- Raised 80K from service sales



**PATIENT FOCUSED CERTIFICATION**

a project of Americans for Safe Access Foundation

PROJECTS & PROGRAMS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Steph Sherer**  
Founder & President  
Washington, DC

Steph's direct experience with the medical benefits of cannabis and her political organizing background led Steph to form ASA in 2002 to protect patients and their rights. As a powerful advocate, a skilled spokesperson, and an energetic initiator of campaigns, Steph has trained over 100,000 individuals across the country on civic engagement.

Steph has become the foremost international leader and expert on medical cannabis patient advocacy and helped create the cannabis product safety standards used by ASA's Patient Focused Certification.



**Don Duncan**  
Founder & Board  
Member  
Sacramento, CA

Don was an early champion of local regulations and licensing for cannabis business, and later worked with a coalition of advocates to promote and adopt the first state medical cannabis licensing bill in 2015. He continues to work with lawmakers and leadership at state licensing agencies on legislation and administrative regulation for the industry.

Don is an expert at local and state cannabis licensing and compliance, having secured more than thirty licenses for cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, retail, and Microbusinesses in California.



**Mary Shapiro**  
Board Member  
San Francisco, CA

Mary Shapiro, Managing Director of Evoke Law, PC, is a cannabis attorney specializing in trademark and consumer protection. Her focus is on effectively enhancing and protecting the value of her client's intellectual property with practicality and efficiency.

Mary has been a leader in bridging federal intellectual property law, state cannabis regulations, and the cannabis marketplace. Mary was a founding Board member of the National Cannabis Bar Association and is in a leadership role in their Continuing Legal Education program.



**Antonio Frazier**  
Board Member  
Los Angeles, CA

Antonio Frazier is a lab executive and engineer whose career has always been focused on consumer and public safety. Whether it be ensuring that critical jet engine components are fit for duty or cannabis products are safe for patients, Antonio has always worked to ensure that high quality products enter the market.

He immediately sought out a 3rd party certification when entering the cannabis industry in 2017, and that is how he found PFC. He now serves as interim director and looks forward to expanding the program into new states.



**Nic Easley**  
Board Member  
Denver, CO

Nic is the CEO and founder of 3C, the world's leading strategic cannabis consulting firm. 3C has helped hundreds of clients across 30 U.S. states and 13 different countries design, start-up, build, and optimize their cannabis companies.

Nic's scientific background, combined with over 15 years of agricultural field and biological experience offers the industry new possibilities of productivity, profitability, and professionalism. Nic is known for his passionate commitment to importing demonstrated best practices from other industries.



**Dr. Carla Rossotti Vázquez**  
Board Member  
Puerto Rico

Dr. Carla Rossotti Vázquez was born and raised in the island of Puerto Rico. Currently, Dr. Rossotti works as a Primary Care Physician. She is also the Medical Director for VarMed Management, which is a care management program for complex patients.

Dr. Rossotti is very active within the Medical Cannabis Program in the island of Puerto Rico. She was part of the first group of physicians to be Certified by the Puerto Rico Health Department to write Medical Cannabis Recommendations for qualifying patients.





**Americans for  
Safe Access**  
Advancing Legal Medical Cannabis Therapeutics

## MAKE A DONATION

Americans for Safe Access is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. For over 20 years, we have been driving the national debate on issues surrounding medical cannabis. Our donors have made this work possible and are truly the engine behind the expansion of patients' rights and access to medical cannabis across the globe.

Donations are tax deductible. We hope that make a donation today and become a part of the exciting, meaningful work of patient advocacy!

## DONATION INSTRUCTIONS

### ONLINE:

[www.SafeAccessNow.org/donate](http://www.SafeAccessNow.org/donate)

Federal ID 51-0579227

### CHECK:

Americans for Safe Access Foundation  
1629 K Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC, 20006

### WIRE:

Account Name: Americans for Safe Access Foundation  
Account Number: 5230525445  
Wire Routing Transit Number: 121000248  
SWIFT Code: WFBIUS6S  
Bank Name: Wells Fargo Bank  
City, State: San Francisco, CA



## BECOME A SPONSOR

**ENROLL TODAY!**

[www.SafeAccessNow.org/sponsorship](http://www.SafeAccessNow.org/sponsorship)



## BECOME A MEMBER

**JOIN TODAY!**

[www.SafeAccessNow.org/membership](http://www.SafeAccessNow.org/membership)

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