



NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS' COALITION

455 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Box 112, Washington, DC 20001

www.nnoac.com

June 21, 2023

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Chairman
The Honorable Tim Scott
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Opposition to SAFE Banking Act of 2023

Dear Chairman Brown and Ranking Member Scott,

I am writing on behalf of the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC), which represents 40 state narcotic officer associations and over 60,000 law enforcement officers, in opposition to the SAFE Banking Act.

The NNOAC strongly opposes any legislation that would shield marijuana businesses from federal law enforcement or pave the way for those businesses - which are trading in substances that are illegal under federal law - to access the banking system. Such a policy would only make it easier for marijuana producers and traffickers to increase drug availability to the general population - including youth - leading to more abuse and addiction.

Science has demonstrated that marijuana is a dangerous psychoactive substance that has been a major source of harm to individuals, families, and communities. Evidence clearly demonstrates the negative consequences in states that have legalized the production and sale of marijuana, including increased abuse and addiction. Evidence also clearly shows that illicit marijuana markets are thriving in areas that have implemented legalization. Opening U.S. financial services to illicit activities will only make a bad situation worse by laundering the proceeds of illegal activities. International Drug Trafficking Organizations are thriving in the black market, and they will no doubt benefit from opening marijuana businesses to banking services.

The NNOAC strongly urges the committee to oppose the SAFE Banking Act and similar legislation. Congress should oppose any bill that creates advantages for businesses that trade in illicit substances at the expense of the health and safety of American citizens.

Sincerely,

Eric Brown
President
National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition

Cc: Majority Leader Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader Mitch McConnell
Members of the United States Senate