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**State Legislators Across America Call on Congress to Solve the Cannabis Banking Problem
and Allow States to Shape their own Cannabis Policies**

Chicago, IL – Today, state senators and representatives from across the United States passed a resolution at their annual convention urging Congress to help legal cannabis businesses access banking services and let states determine their own path forward on cannabis regulation. Oregon legislators Sen. Ted Ferrioli, Sen. Ginny Burdick, and Rep. Ann Lininger worked together to craft and pass this resolution at the National Conference of State Legislatures annual summit, currently underway in Chicago.

“This is a strong unified call upon Congress to give legal cannabis businesses access to the banking services other legal businesses enjoy. Right now legal cannabis businesses must operate all in cash, which invites crime and hurts our work to eliminate the illegal market,” said Senate Minority Leader Ted Ferrioli, a key architect of the resolution.

“Twenty-five states, the District of Columbia and Guam already allow legal cannabis businesses,” noted Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick. “In November, a number of states, including California, will have cannabis legalization measures on their ballots. As more states continue to legalize either medical or adult use cannabis, it is imperative that we allow legal cannabis businesses to access the banking system. It is a public safety issue.”

Just last week in Oregon, a medical dispensary was robbed. News media have reported hundreds of robberies at legal cannabis businesses elsewhere. “It’s not safe or reasonable to require legal businesses to operate all in cash,” concludes Sen. Ferrioli.

“This bill represents the same kind of bipartisan teamwork that has helped us be effective on cannabis issues in Oregon,” noted Rep. Lininger, who carried the bill at the convention. “We need Democrats and Republicans to work together to address tough issues, and our work on cannabis, both in Oregon and at this national convention of legislators, shows that’s possible.”

During the committee hearing on the resolution, Republican Senator Wayne Harper of Utah offered a compromise amendment that helped the resolution pass. Other supporters of the resolution, including Oregon House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson, noted that removing cannabis from Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act will also support research on medical uses of cannabis.