



## **Press Release: 'Missouri Patient Care Act' Raises Quarter Million for Cannabis Signatures**

February 16th, 2018

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**'Missouri Patient Care Act' Raises a Quarter of a Million to Professional Signatures:**

Missourians for Patient Care (MPC) is excited to announce passing our first major fundraising milestone with a quarter of one million dollars raised as of today. The Missouri Patient Care Act (MPCA - 2018-271) is a state statutory ballot initiative that would allow patients to legally use medical cannabis with the written certification by a physician who treats patients diagnosed with those qualifying medical conditions.

Compared against amending the Missouri State Constitution, qualifying the Missouri Patient Care Act to the ballot has several advantages. First, one hundred percent of funds raised is dedicated to strictly-professional statewide circulators with a flawless track record of ballot certification. Second, this measure includes clear authority for local licensing authorities to work with county prosecutors and first responders likely to encounter permitting, zoning, and control disputes. Third, the campaign needs an average of 60,000 fewer signatures to qualify over large constitutional rewrites.

"Each of us likely know some family who might benefit from proper access to a cannabis therapy developed to meet their unique medical needs," said Travis H. Brown, CEO, First Rule. "However, if the Missouri public signs a change like MPCA into law, only the Supervisor of Liquor Control is prepared to cooperate with many cities, towns, and counties bombarded with new cannabis industry demands on day one."

Brown's twenty plus years of state & local government affairs experience with highly-regulated products helps explain why his firm stepped up with a \$33,000 corporate check today.

"It is highly doubtful that a medical product with so much diversity and potential will not require some technical corrections to its laws, permits, and practices over the next generation," Brown said. "A general law that can be improved by state and local authorities is especially timely to have before voters ahead of other sweeping constitutional restrictions for large bureaucracies."

“It is not necessary to create broad constitutional powers just so that bureaucrats can acquire research land, individuals can grow their own plants off grid, or unelected agencies decide how and where these products may target minors.”

Brown understands why many patient advocates and major donors could be frustrated or confused with multiple petitions and campaigns.

“Hope is not a plan. Using volunteer signatures when constitutional lawyers challenge signature validity rates in court could delay Missouri access to cannabis treatment another decade.”

MPC Treasurer Mike Colona applauds how Brown and the full weight of his professional services network is stepping up to carry this state legislative change over the ballot finish line. “Our signature team is off to a fabulous 2018 start just in time to finish. The time for any donor who cares about cannabis to call us is now.”

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