



Dr. Tre Pennie, Candidate for U.S. Congress, Promotes Merit-based Cannabis Plan called “EARN IT: Cannabis”

The outcome of the 2020 election will have unintended consequences, especially for underserved majority-minority districts. For decades, communities of color have been taken for granted and ignored because of crony politics that have marginalized their interests. Many communities have faced significant socioeconomic challenges stemming from years of failed policy that have restricted their economic upward mobility.

With the nation facing a \$26-trillion national deficit and 46% of small and minority-owned businesses being decimated due to the coronavirus crisis, underserved districts cannot afford to maintain the status quo. Because of government inefficiency, it is apparent that traditional ideas for economic recovery and business as usual practices are likely to work. For this reason, I have proposed an economic recovery plan that many have referred to as the 21st Century version of the New Deal called EARN-IT, which stands for *Economic – Academic – Reward – Network – In – Training*. Under the plan, government would play its traditional role of supporting public works projects and community initiatives, but corporations and people will have an opportunity to earn economic and social rewards based on their involvement.



In September, I announced an addendum to the original EARN-IT Plan called “EARN-IT: Cannabis” to coincide with the vote on H.R. 3884: Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Engagement Act (MORE ACT). Although, the MORE Act vote was delayed until after the 2020 election, EARN-IT: Cannabis has received national attention and support because of its education and career development initiatives.

EARN-IT: Cannabis provides a “new vision” for dealing with existing socioeconomic challenges in underserved majority-minority districts across America, while considering ongoing legislative efforts to legalize and profit from cannabis. EARN-IT: Cannabis is a merit-based approach focused on education, training, and business opportunities to ensure that underserved majority-minority districts like Texas Congressional District 30 have a seat at the table in this lucrative emerging market.

This summer, I visited Colorado and toured one of the State’s main cannabis distribution plants. I learned about the numerous career and business opportunities tied to this emerging industry and how this industry was one of the only consumer-markets resilient to the COVID-19 crisis. In 2019, Colorado’s cannabis industry generated \$1.6 billion in gross annual revenues; which undeniably is doing wonders for underserved majority-minority districts during these critical times – this year’s projections are expected to increase.

If legalized in Texas and nationally with proper regulation and oversight, we can begin to lift underserved communities out of poverty, reduce minority incarceration rates related to marijuana offenses and create sustainable markets resilient to online marketplace monopolies. Based on the potential \$129 billion nationwide economic impact of the cannabis industry, this change will help to balance the disproportionate income levels.

It’s time for a new vision in Texas Congressional District 30 to help this district move forward. Based on my knowledge and experience, I am the only candidate that understands this emerging market and has the resources to help usher in a new era of prosperity. Our district deserves to participate in this opportunity and I intend to ensure that it is provided.

To learn more about Earn-it Cannabis and my other platform agendas, please visit: www.pennieforcongress.com