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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATCEMS REMOVES CANNABIS FROM DISQUALIFICATION LIST

Austin, TX - Cannabis is decriminalized or legalized in thirty one states for recreational use. Medical cannabis is legal in thirty six states. Furthermore, the Texas state Legislature has expanded medical cannabis for a PTSD diagnosis. Due to COVID-19 and the nature of EMS work, many of our first responders have PTSD. Up until now, ATCEMS has disqualified candidates from working for ATCEMS if they have had ANY cannabis use in three years.

Texas NORML and Austin EMS Association raised awareness of this issue and sent almost three thousand letters to the Austin City Council to remove this question. Last week, ATCEMS agreed to remove the question. This action would not have happened if not for the support from the Austin NORML community.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out: **Selena Xie 512.566.4449, President@austinemsa.org.**

