About ASA

- The mission of Americans for Safe Access (ASA) is to ensure safe and legal access to cannabis (marijuana) for therapeutic use and research.
- ASA was founded in 2002, by medical cannabis patient Steph Sherer, as a vehicle for patients to advocate for the acceptance of cannabis as medicine.
- ASA has over 100,000 active members in all 50 states and is the largest national member-based organization of patients, medical professionals, scientists and concerned citizens promoting safe and legal access to medical cannabis.
- ASA works to overcome political, social and legal barriers by creating policies that improve access to medical cannabis for patients and researchers.
- ASA's annual budget is approximately 1.2 mil and over the last 17 years has garnered over 20 mil in direct donations and inkind services.
- ASA's Website includes educational information and support resources for patients, caregivers, providers, researchers, and legal and medical professionals.

Patient Focused Certification (PFC)

PFC is a third-party assessment and training program for the medical cannabis industry. PFC Business Certification program certifies that business are operating to the standards outlined in the AHPA Recommendations for Regulators and AHP Cannabis Monograph. PFC can certify all legally operating cannabis and hemp businesses including cultivation, manufacturing, dispensing, and laboratory operations. PFC has a dual ISO 17025:PFC laboratory certification that is done through our partnership with A2LA. International certifications are performed through our partnership with ICCI. PFC Training is available online or in person to anyone interested in learning more about medical cannabis. Trainings range from single discipline certification to multi-discipline certification and is available in: Cultivation, Manufacturing, Distribution, and Laboratory. Companies engaged in the PFC program are offered a 50% discount on all trainings. PatientFocusedCertification.org and PFCTraining.org

Cannabis Care Certification (CCC)

ASA and The Answer Page created the CCC program and is designed for individuals as well as for companies and organizations that need to meet state requirements for patient medical cannabis education or CME requirements for physicians. CannabisCareCertification.org

Federal Advocacy

ASA has been instrumental in securing protections for medical cannabis patients at the Federal level through the annual Commerce, Justice and Science Budget. During each year’s appropriations process ASA has fought to secure a budget amendment that prevents the DOJ from spending any money to prosecute patients. Each year during ASA’s Unity Conference, we lobby together on Capitol Hill and supply each elected official with ASA’s Medical Cannabis Briefing Book which provides a comprehensive overview of medical cannabis myths and facts on the federal level. Each election cycle ASA issues a voter guide, Vote Medical Marijuana, that grades federal lawmakers on their commitment to medical cannabis patients.

State Advocacy

ASA regularly contributes model language for legislation and regulations to ensure that state programs are patient-focused, rather than profit focused. Each year, ASA releases the State of the States Report that grades every states medical cannabis program to show state lawmakers where improvement is needed. During ASA’s National Medical Cannabis Unity Conference, ASA sponsors hundreds of medical cannabis patients from around the country to attend the conference and share their stories with their state lawmakers on Capitol Hill.
Chapters, Action Groups, and Affiliates
ASA currently has 35 chapters, action groups, and affiliates that bring together activists across the US to work together in their communities to achieve shared goals of advocating and advancing medical cannabis legislation at the local, state, and federal level. safeaccessnow.org/advocate-for-medical-cannabis

End Pain, Not Lives (EPNL) Campaign
ASA and the U.S. Pain Foundation launched the EPNL campaign on Nov 1, 2017, to address the root of the opioid epidemic that is claiming over 120+ lives a day in the US. Through this campaign, ASA is making it a priority to ensure our lawmakers understand and respond to medical cannabis’ potential role in mediating this crisis. safeaccessnow.org/end_pain_not_lives

General Accomplishments
ASA and our members have moved public policy forward by incorporating strategies across many disciplines. ASA has brought together policy experts, public health experts, attorneys, lobbyists, scientists, industry associations and medical professionals to create the campaigns, projects and programs that have broken down political, social, academic, and legal barriers across the US. For a full list of accomplishments, visit: safeaccessnow.org/2018_accomplishments

• ASA occupies a seat at the table for medical cannabis patients in policy matters.
• ASA changed the national dialogue about medical cannabis.
• ASA created a global patient network.
• ASA has passed local, state, and federal laws.
• ASA has fought and won in state and federal courts.
• ASA has provided quality legal and medical education for medical cannabis stakeholders.
• ASA brought cannabis back into the Herbal Pharmacopeia.
• ASA has created product safety standards for medical cannabis products.
• ASA has built the world’s first International Cannabis and Cannabinoid Institute.
• ASA has trained thousands of patient advocates on civil engagement.
• ASA has created accredited education programs for doctors, patients, and providers.

Published Reports
• The DEA’s Denial of Existing Medical Cannabis Research (2016)
• Congressional Briefing Book (2017)
• 8-Factor Analysis (2017)
• Medical Cannabis Access for Pain Treatment (2017)
• Medical Cannabis in America – The Medical Cannabis Briefing Book, 115th Congress (2017)
• Medical Marijuana Access in the US: A Patient-Focused Analysis of the Patchwork of State Laws (2015-2018)
• Medical Cannabis as a Tool to Combat Pain and the Opioid Crisis: A Blueprint for State Policy " (2018)

ASA is a 501c3 corporation, Federal ID 51-0579227. All contributions are tax-deductible.

ASA Donation Instructions:
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