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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BULLDOG FEDERAL CREDIT UNION TO BANK MARYLAND’S MEDICAL CANNABIS INDUSTRY**

In staying true to their mission of providing personal, competitive, and cost-effective financial services to the persons and businesses within their field of membership, Bulldog Federal Credit Union, established in Washington County Maryland in 1968, will start offering banking services to Maryland’s burgeoning medical cannabis industry.

“It’s a perfect fit,” according to BFCU President David A. Barrett, who’s been balancing the members’ financial wellbeing with the institution’s safety and soundness since 1980. According to Barrett, credit unions like Bulldog step in to serve the unbanked and underserved segments of society.

“As a financial institution, we recognize the need for medical cannabis entrepreneurs to be able to conduct business in a forthright, transparent, and compliant manner that is both safe and part of the state regulatory environment,” Barrett says.

“By offering our services to the cannabis industry, we will help to remove large sums of cash from our streets, making the environment safer for our communities, friends, and most importantly, our families,” he adds.

Bulldog appreciates the complex nature of Maryland’s emerging medical cannabis industry, and has developed a program that follows the rigorous compliance process as outlined by the state and FinCEN guidelines.

“By providing safe, compliant, economical financial solutions to the entrepreneurs in Maryland’s medical cannabis industry, we hope to help them to realize growth and prosperity legitimately, and that will benefit not only our members, but our community at large and our local economy,” Barrett concludes.

**“**In early 2017 Cannabis Innovation Alliance for Opportunity (CIAO) started asking cannabis ventures what three major hurdles they were facing. One of those top three was a cannabis- compliant, friendly and regulated financial institution,” according to CIAO co-founder Bradly Talbert. “Through research and consulting experts, we realized that a mature, steadfast credit union like Bulldog would be good for Maryland’s emerging cannabis industry,” Talbert added.

Anyone who lives, works, worships, or attends school in Washington County, Maryland, is eligible to join Bulldog FCU, as well as businesses and other legal entities and associations (clubs, groups, and organizations) in the county. Entrepreneurs who meet the membership eligibility requirements will enjoy discreet and dedicated access to Bulldog’s team of medical cannabis banking professionals under a fair and competitive fee structure. For more information on Bulldog Federal Credit Union’s medical cannabis banking program, please contact David Barrett at (301)797-6318, extension 3132.

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