It is imperative that we do all we can to address the unintended consequences associated with legalizing cannabis but banning public consumption.

The lack of legal options for consumers disproportionately effects renters, people of lower economic status, patients who reside in federal housing, and people of color.

“Allowing social consumption is sensible from a business perspective, particularly for states with large amounts of tourists who otherwise have no place to legally consume, but it also has an important social justice component.

By preventing retail outlets and other venues from being licensed and regulated for social consumption, many patients will have to choose between effective cannabis treatment for their ailments or being thrown out of public housing.

This causes the civil liberties that come with marijuana legalization to still being kept at arms length from low-income individuals and members of other marginalized communities.”

Erik Altieri, NORML Executive Director
In May, 2019 the Massachusetts Cannabis Commission approved to launch a social consumption pilot program. This program recommended to issue primary use social consumption establishment licenses (businesses) and event host licenses (events open to the public) to a limited number of municipalities based on socioeconomic, size, and geographic diversity.

On April 11, 2019 Alaska became the first state to finalize and approve statewide rules for on-site consumption.

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Effective January 1, 2020, Colorado’s exemption to the Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act states that with local approval, cannabis consumption is allowed in specially licensed shops, restaurants, and other businesses, including mobile "marijuana hospitality establishments" such as tour buses.

States that allow consumption with existing establishments:

**California** - Temporary event (up to 4 days) licenses which allow for onsite sales and local consumption area permits/licenses pursuant to local approval
- Cathedral City - Cannabis consumption permitted within a licensed dispensary
- Oakland - A secondary onsite consumption permit is required for cannabis to be consumed on the premises of a dispensary
- Palm Springs - Cannabis Lounge Facility license
- San Francisco - There are three types of permits available for the Consumption of Cannabis Products on the Premises of commercial businesses
- West Hollywood - Different requirements for establishments that permit smoking and vaping from those that just permit edible consumption

**Colorado** - Consumption establishments are Licensed at the local level
- Colorado Springs - Marijuana Consumption Club (brick and mortar establishment)
- Denver - Cannabis Consumption Business Permit (brick and mortar establishment) and Cannabis Consumption Special Event Permit
- Nederland - Private social club
- Pueblo County - Private social club