

My name is Karen Mandwelle Caplan. I live in Lutherville at 14 Barthel Court. I am a clinical social worker in private practice, a mother of two and grandmother of four. I have lived in my home for 34 years. Our home is located within a quarter of a mile of the hemp farm.

Like so many of my neighbors, my family has experienced health issues last year that we believe may have been the result of breathing whatever the nearby hemp field was emitting. These included nausea and asthma related issues.

I believe laws restricting hemp agriculture near residential areas are essential due to the health problems experienced by my family and neighbors. There is not enough evidence of how hemp farming may cause long-term damage to one's health, a very real concern to me and my family. I am especially concerned about the health risks to my very young grandchildren when they visit.

Additionally, the horrible stench emanating from the farm is hard to endure. I am often able to smell the odor from as far away as three miles on Falls Road as I return from work. It is unacceptable that a crop like this be allowed to be farmed so close to homes.

Sincerely,

*Karen M. Caplan, LCSW-C*

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