

HB 1235 FAV

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY DRUG-FREE COALITION

ICO Warren Wright

201 Myers RD,

Chestertown, MD

February 20, 2025

Delegate Steven J Arentz

308 Lowe House Office Building

6 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Arentz:

The Queen Anne's County Drug-Free Coalition fully supports HB 1235. For the past 25 years, our mission has been to promote healthy and safe communities by reducing alcohol and other drug use, with a focus on adolescents and young adults. This is a collaborative effort in Queen Anne's County.

We are aware that proponents of marijuana claim it is beneficial for medical and recreational use, and many young people believe this narrative. However, marijuana usage in Queen Anne's County exceeds both the state and national averages (YRBS 2023). It has been shown that adolescent marijuana use can negatively impact their developing brains, affecting mental health and academic performance and even contributing to increased suicide rates.

The recreational facility in Centreville sells over 600 different products, including quasi-legal delta-8, delta-9, delta-10, THC, and CBD-infused psychoactive compounds.

When legalization was proposed, we conducted a survey in which over 50% of participants opposed having retail facilities in their neighborhoods.



Zoning is a crucial tool for protecting our youth from excessive exposure to addictive products. Just as we do not want beer and wine sold in grocery stores, we do not wish to have liquor stores near our high schools.

The Liquor Board ensures that alcohol is not sold to underage individuals, and the Health Department and Sheriff's Office work diligently to keep tobacco products out of the hands of minors.

We believe it is essential to be free to keep retail cannabis facilities away from our churches, schools, childcare facilities, and recreational areas. This request is a reasonable step to maintain the quality of life in Queen Anne's County.

Please vote yes on HB 1235.

Sincerely,

W L wright

W. L. Wright

Queen Anne's County Drug-Free Coalition

