



Statement in Support of Senate Bill 820 as Amended
Submitted by Dr. Paloma Lehfeltdt, MD
Medical Director, Botanicals for Better Health & Wellness

I respectfully urge a favorable vote on **Senate Bill 820 as amended** and encourage adoption of the Senate version rather than the House companion.

As a physician and Medical Director of Botanicals for Better Health & Wellness, I support policies that improve consumer safety through clear, enforceable standards grounded in public health. The Senate version of SB 820 takes that approach. It provides Maryland with a more precise and practical framework to address unauthorized consumable products while preserving an important distinction between compliant products and those that are adulterated, mislabeled, unlawfully marketed, or otherwise high risk.

This distinction matters. Effective public health policy should focus enforcement on the products and practices that create the greatest risk to consumers. The Senate bill, as amended, does that by linking enforcement to existing violations involving adulteration, contamination, unlawful labeling, unlawful marketing, and other forms of noncompliance. It strengthens oversight without creating unnecessary ambiguity for lawful products that comply with the law.

The Senate amendments also give the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission meaningful enforcement authority to remove unauthorized products from the marketplace. Regulators need tools to act against bad actors, especially when products are marketed in ways that mislead consumers, appeal to youth, or evade existing health and safety requirements. The Senate version improves the State's ability to intervene when warranted.

Just as importantly, the amended Senate bill advances core consumer protection principles. It reinforces age restrictions, labeling requirements, and limitations on youth-oriented marketing. These are appropriate safeguards. Public health is best served when states establish and enforce standards that promote transparency, accountability, and responsible retail practices.

By contrast, broader or less clearly tailored approaches can create confusion, invite inconsistent enforcement, and risk sweeping in products that are not the true source of concern. That kind of uncertainty does not serve consumers, regulators, or the public. Maryland should prioritize a targeted framework that addresses actual risk while preserving regulatory clarity.

For these reasons, I support **Senate Bill 820 as amended** and respectfully urge a **favorable vote on the Senate version of the bill**.

Dr. Paloma Lehfeltdt, MD
Medical Director
Botanicals for Better Health & Wellness