



STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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FIRST LADY

March 3, 2026

Delegate Heather Bagnall
Chair, House Health Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
241 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SUPPORT – HB1523 (SB820): Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission - Unauthorized Consumable Products - Enforcement and Seizure

Dear Chair Bagnall and Members of the Health Committee,

As a mother and advocate of mental health initiatives, I submit this letter in full support of this legislation to establish strict state-level controls to protect public health, particularly as it relates to our young people. House Bill 1523 is a huge step forward for public health and consumer protection.

As written, House Bill 1523 targets psychoactive substances that have increasingly found their way onto the shelves of gas stations, convenience stores, and vape shops. Because these substances exist in a federal regulatory gray area—often marketed deceptively as dietary supplements, energy boosters, or anxiety relievers, this legislation aims to establish strict state-level controls to protect public health.

Specifically, this legislation allows the State to fully enforce Maryland's existing laws controlling the sale of unauthorized kratom, phenibut, and tianeptine products. Current law bars retailers from selling or distributing certain products to those under the age of 21. Maryland also bans sellers from adding additional synthetics, using improper labeling, making therapeutic claims, or marketing to minors. The bill enhances these laws by authorizing the ATCC to enforce these sections of the Health General Article, and by clarifying that a business that violates the law may face suspension or revocation of its business license.

The proposed bill will leverage Maryland Department of Health's subject matter expertise in identifying and regulating these harmful dietary and quasi-medical products, and the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission's (ATCC) field enforcement experience. The enforcement framework proposed in legislation mirrors the work the agency has already accomplished with unlicensed THC products.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter and wish that my schedule would have allowed me to be there to testify in person on this important priority. Thank you for your consideration and I humbly ask the committee for a favorable report on HB1523.