

August 6, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4105

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3202

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
521 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1804

The Honorable Hakeem Jefferies
House Minority Leader
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3208

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chairwoman
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC, 20510-6025

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chairwoman
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC, 20510-6025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
U.S. House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC, 20510-6025

The Honorable Rose DeLauro
Ranking Member
U.S. House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC, 20510-6025

Dear Senators,

As you consider the current Continuing Resolution (H.R. 6500) moving through the Senate, we the undersigned 56 national and state public health, public safety, consumer protection, and community groups, ask that you consider an amendment to remove problematic language before passage. Included in the text is a provision to delay necessary hemp restrictions that were enacted by the House and Senate and signed into law by President Donald Trump.

Senator Ted Budd has filed amendment #6747 to strike the delay to ensure that the hemp restrictions are implemented on time on November 12, 2026. Doing so would keep easily accessible intoxicating hemp-derived THC products out of reach of vulnerable children.

Following passage of the 2018 Farm Bill, intoxicating hemp-derived THC products were made legal due to a loophole in federal law. As a result, manufacturers extracted and concentrated intoxicating cannabinoids from hemp and marketed them in gummies, vapes, beverages, and other products. Packaged with bright colors and candy-like branding, these products became widely available in gas stations, convenience stores, and grocery stores, where they were easily accessible to minors.

The consequences have been devastating. Children and teenagers are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of THC, are more likely to consume these products accidentally, and can develop dependence more quickly than adults. Poison control centers, emergency departments, and addiction treatment providers have reported significant [increases](#) in cases involving hemp-derived THC exposure, including severe and sometimes life-threatening outcomes. Most recently, a [four-year-old child in Virginia died](#) after consuming multiple delta-8 THC gummies found at home- a tragic reminder of the real dangers these products pose.

The intoxicating hemp industry has built a billion-dollar empire by exploiting this loophole using an addiction-for-profit model in ways that appeal to children in an effort to create life-long customers.

Recognizing these dangers, Congress closed the hemp loophole in the November 2025 appropriations bill by a 76-24 Senate vote. The Senate should adhere to the current timeline and permit a vote to strike the current hemp language in the CR.

We the undersigned 56 national and state public health, public safety, consumer protection, and community groups support Senator Budd's efforts to eliminate this delay. We also agree with the 35 state attorneys general who [signed a letter](#) asking Congress to oppose the delay. The lives of the American people, especially our children, depend on it.

Sincerely,

Addiction Policy Forum
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
CADCA
Cannabis Impact Prevention Coalition, LLC.(CIPC)
Cannabis Industry Victims Educating Litigators
Cannabis Industry Victims Seeking Justice, LLC (CIVSJ),
CatholicVote
Citizens for a Safe and Healthy Texas
Citizens for Safe Yakima Valley Communities
Coalition for a Drug Free Texas
Community Alliance for Teen Safety
Consumer Federation of America
D.A.R.E. America
Drug Enforcement Agency Educational Foundation
Drug Free America Foundation, Inc.
Drug Watch International, Inc.
Eagle Forum
Emily's Hope
Every Brain Matters
Family Research Council
Foundation for Drug Policy Solutions
Foundation for Healthy Generations
Georgians for Responsible Marijuana Policy
Hermosa Coalition for Drug-Free Kids

Institute for Behavior and Health, Inc.
Johnny's Ambassadors Youth THC Prevention
MATFORCE
Mothers Against Prescription Drug Abuse
NAADAC the Association for Addiction Professionals
National Behavioral Health Association of Providers
National Drug & Alcohol Screening Association
National HIDTA Director's Association
National Narcotics Officers' Associations' Coalition
National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives
Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership
New Jersians Against Legalizing Marijuana
North Carolinians Against Legalizing Marijuana
North Fayette Valley Community Coalition
One Chance to Grow Up
Partnership to End Addiction
Pennsylvania Against Legalizing Marijuana
Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation
Prevention Action Alliance
Prevention Alliance of Tennessee
Public Health Institute
SafeLaunch
Save Our Society From Drugs
Shatterproof
Smart Approaches to Marijuana
Student Assistance Services Corporation
Substance Awareness Coalition Leaders of Arizona
Texas Eagle Forum
Tipton Prevents
Washington Association for Substance misuse And Violence Prevention
Washington State Public Health Association
WestCare Foundation