

March 9, 2023

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin  
Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 1475  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Subject: Support for SB 903 & HB 2294

Dear Governor Youngkin:

We are writing to you on behalf of organizations who represent tens of thousands of medical professionals across the Commonwealth to respectfully request your signature on HB 2294 and SB 903. These measures as approved by the General Assembly are critically important to public health and safety. They are especially important to ensure the well-being of children, many of whom have been poisoned after accessing and ingesting unregulated delta-8-THC, delta-9-THC, and other synthetic marijuana-like products.

As healthcare workers, our members have been alarmed by the recent surge of cases involving children who consumed these products. In the past few years, the sale of illicit, intoxicating THC-infused products has spread throughout the Commonwealth. These products are sold in gas stations, tobacco shops, and convenience stores in every corner of the state. None are subject to regulatory oversight and many contain illegal amounts of THC and other intoxicating, synthetic THC derivatives. They are not tested for potency or purity, nor have they been subject to sufficient research and study. Equally concerning, they often bear misleading and inaccurate labels, many of which recklessly target children. News organizations have reported multiple incidents in which children ingested these dangerous products and required emergency medical treatment.

We also find the recent misleading and inaccurate claims made in news media reports by opponents of HB 2294 and SB 903 to be very disturbing. It is important to recognize that existing laws do not adequately prohibit the retail sale of unregulated products with intoxicating levels of THC and other synthetic cannabinoids. These bills effectively close a loophole exploited by retail sellers and protect public health by legislating three key provisions:

- Establishing a limit of 2 milligrams of THC per package, which is essential to protecting health. States that regulate cannabis establish THC limits as a standard consumer safety measure, and these products should not be exempt.
- Requiring these products to be tested by a DEA-registered third-party laboratory to ensure product quality.
- Mandating labels that include accurate and complete product information; Virginians should have confidence that the products permitted for retail sale are honestly and transparently labeled.

Sellers who violate these common-sense provisions should face civil penalties, and HB 2294 and SB 903 ensure that they will. We commend Leader Terry Kilgore and Senator Emmett Hanger for carrying

this important legislation, and we implore you not to amend these bills but to sign them as approved by the House of Delegates and Senate.

Respectfully,

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Clark Barrineau  
Assistant Vice President of Government Affairs, Medical Society of Virginia

Todd Parker, MD FACEP  
President, VA College of Emergency Physicians

Sean T. Connaughton  
President & CEO, Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association