



February 13, 2023

New York State Cannabis Control Board
Via Electronic Submission

To Whom it May Concern,

The NYS Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) is honored to represent the families of our 2.6 million school children and our 220,000 members. It is our mission to make every child's potential a reality and support EVERY child with ONE voice. Today, we offer these comments on the Adult Use Cannabis regulations under consideration for adoption, and look forward to our future conversations on these matters.

We continue to oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana, and already see the harm it is causing our children and youth. We are critically concerned about marketing to children, and deceptive packaging of cannabis products, and its impact on children and youth – and join with our many colleagues in health and education with these worries. Further, the illicit cannabis market has already saturated New York City and other areas of the state, weakening any safety measures you may be trying to implement.

We offer the following for your consideration:

1. Throughout regulation, we ask that you at all times protect from intentional or unintentional exposure or ingestion of cannabis products that impact the health and safety of vulnerable populations including children and youth.
2. Throughout regulation, we ask that you use specific language that prevents processors and retailers from selling products that are enticing to vulnerable populations including children and youth.
3. We ask that you adopt and enact harsh penalties for businesses that advertise or sell to minors.
4. We ask that you require explicit label warnings on all packaging that giving marijuana/THC/cannabis to minors under the age of 21 is illegal.
5. We ask that no processing or production of cannabis products be allowed to occur in any facility that also processes non-cannabis products. We must ensure there is no possibility of cross contamination of products. We also ask that all cannabis packaging be marked and stored separately from non-cannabis packaging to eliminate cross contamination.
6. We support language that discourages youth attracting shapes of allowable edibles. However, this language should be stronger, and we support the inclusion of a well-defined list of prohibitions.

7. We strongly oppose any allowance of flavored cannabis, as this is highly attractive to youth. NYS worked extremely hard to ban flavored tobacco as a youth deterrent, and any allowance of flavored cannabis would be completely opposite of current state youth protection policies. We also strongly recommend that these regulations comply with new language that is currently included in Governor Hochul's SFY24 Executive Budget regarding flavor tobacco or vapor products.
8. Throughout regulation, we ask that you include additional policies to protect children and youth, such as eliminating cannabis infused beverages, eliminating inhalable products that are flavored or marketed using flavor indicating names, and eliminating flavored wrappers.
9. We also recommend strong language regarding prohibitions on naming products and strain names, in attempts to protect youth, with oversight and approval of product naming by the Office of Cannabis Management.
10. We strongly recommend increasing the buffer zones between cannabis businesses and youth facilities to at least 1500 feet, which would conform to the requirements of tobacco retailers.
11. All educational and marketing materials allowed in regulation should be approved for use by the Office of Cannabis Management to protect youth.
12. We ask that the Office of Cannabis Management and related state departments including the Department of Health retain all jurisdiction for the enforcement of standards including but not limited to food, health, retail and product safety.
13. We ask that the Office of Cannabis Management has the highest level of enforcement and oversight, including random testing of products, random review of marketing, random review of labeling, and random inspection of businesses regulated under regulations.
14. Lastly, we ask that at all times, each separate regulation, and the set of regulations as a whole, be viewed in a manner to maximize child and youth protection, health, and wellness.

As always, NYS PTA stands ready to work collaboratively to support ALL children and families. We are available at anytime by contacting our Executive Director, Kyle Belokopitsky, at execdirector@nyspta.org or 518-452-8808 (office) or 518-817-3017 (cell).

Sincerely,



Helen Hoffman, President



Kyle Belokopitsky, Esq., Executive Director