



**For Immediate Release:** September 24, 2024

**Contact:** Zack Kaldveer, Getting it Right from the Start, 510-938-2664

## **Getting it Right from the Start Applauds California Upholding Governor Newsom's Emergency Regulations to Protect Children and Youth from Psychoactive Hemp Products**

Getting it Right from the Start, a project of the Public Health Institute, fully supports California's Office of Administrative Law's (OAL) [rejection of the hemp industry's](#) baseless case to overrule Governor Newsom's proposed emergency regulations on hemp products. [These regulations represent](#) a critical step in protecting California's children and youth from dangerous psychoactive products often sold in packaging blatantly appealing to children or imitating candy.

Since 2022, loopholes in state and Federal law have allowed intoxicating cannabinoids like THC and a host of look-alike psychoactive compounds made from hemp to be marketed and sold in food and supplement products, with no age restrictions or where they can be sold. This has put our youth at risk, with products that are essentially psychoactive cannabis widely accessible to minors, often in higher doses than allowed in legal cannabis market edibles.

The Governor's regulations, which eliminate detectable THC and other intoxicating cannabinoids in edible hemp products, set an age limit of 21 for pure CBD, and cap servings per package, will help safeguard children and teens. This has now clearly caused an emergency, with accidental poisonings of young children, often requiring hospitalization or intensive care, skyrocketing since legalization of hemp, and teens initiating "cannabis" use by purchasing psychoactive hemp products freely available in gas stations, corner stores, and smoke and vape shops.

We support responsible uses of hemp like sustainable paper, textiles, and fibers, biodegradable plastics, eco-friendly clothing, hemp oils, protein powders, and hemp seeds when they provide healthy and sustainable alternatives to traditional materials and foods. We DON'T support its use to create intoxicating products sold outside the regulated cannabis market. The regulations leave the hemp industry free to continue to sell CBD products and other non-intoxicating products. The claim by industry that the regulation prohibits the sale of CBD or "95% of hemp products" is misleading.

Our organization, dedicated to protecting public health, youth and equity in cannabis policy, applauds this action to prioritize California children's health over the hemp industry's right to profit off endangering it. We have worked for the past three years to correct this hazard. These regulations will ensure a safer environment for all Californians. We urge swift implementation of these rules and definitive prohibition of inhalable hemp products, which can be manufactured but not sold to consumers in the state.

###

*[Getting it Right from the Start](#), a project of the Public Health Institute, works with states, cities, counties and community partners to develop evidence-based model policies and provide guidance on cannabis policies that can help reduce harms, protect against youth and problem cannabis use, and advance social equity.*