



RI Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5097

TTY: 771
www.health.ri.gov

April 8, 2025

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr., Chair
House Committee on Corporations
State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H 6056 – An Act Relating to Food and Drugs -- The Rhode Island Hemp THC-Infused Beverages Act

Dear Chair Solomon:

Please accept this letter with concerns from a public health perspective regarding H 6056, legislation that would authorize the sale of THC-infused beverages to be regulated by the State.

The proposed legislation would allow the sale and onsite consumption of intoxicating hemp-derived beverages in licensed venues such as bars and restaurants. Specifically, the bill would allow products containing up to 5mg of Delta-9 THC per serving to be sold outside of licensed cannabis retailers, and without requiring product testing, labeling restrictions, and additional safety protocols required under current and forthcoming cannabis regulations. The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) cautions against enacting new statutory policy based on a lack of clear requirements for psychoactive hemp-derived products. The unintended consequence of such legislation is likely to increase the risk of accidental overconsumption and potential exposure among vulnerable populations including, but not limited to, youth and pregnant women.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome M. Larkin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jerome M. Larkin, MD
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Corporations
The Honorable Jacquelyn Baginski
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy
