



# PARENT ACTION NETWORK

An Initiative of Smart Approaches to Marijuana

## Delta-8 Farm Bill Talking Points



*Educate*

*Empower*

*Engage*

### Background

In the 2018 Farm Bill, Congress legalized hemp and any hemp-derived products. Hemp is a variant of the cannabis plant that naturally contains low concentrations of Delta-9 THC, the psychoactive component that makes users feel a “high.” Despite intentions for increased use of hemp fibers in fabric and manufacturing, the legalization of hemp allowed Delta-8 THC to be extracted from the plant and converted into products with much stronger concentrations that mimic traditional Delta-9 THC.

### Talking Points

- Health of consumers is a concern: Delta-8 THC is psychoactive, intoxicating, and addictive. According to the FDA, Delta-8 THC use is known to cause hallucinations, vomiting, tremors, anxiety, dizziness, confusion, and loss of consciousness.
- The Monitoring the Future (MTF) survey found that 11.4% of all 12th graders used Delta-8 THC last year. MTF noted, “this prevalence level is considerable for a substance that has only recently come to market.” The use of Delta-8 THC will only further increase as awareness increases.
- While a good portion of the sales of Delta-8 THC have occurred in states without legal marijuana sales, legal states also see large amounts of Delta-8 THC sales, due to the price, the lack of regulations, and ability to avoid taxes. Consumers can also have kid-friendly Delta-8 products delivered by mail – which is not allowed in legal marijuana states.

- In 2022, Poison Centers managed 3,358 exposures to Delta-8 THC, an increase of 82% from 2021. This demonstrates the growing use and popularity of Delta-8 THC products, which are available in many forms, including gummies, chocolate, candies, cookies, vaping cartridges, infused drinks, and even breakfast cereal.
- In 2022, a four-year-old child died after eating Delta-8 THC edibles. The Virginia Department of Health determined that “the cause of death is Delta-8-[THC] toxicity.”
- Delta-8 THC has painted a clear picture that the marijuana industry can’t be trusted. They have exploited this loophole, using it to sell THC-infused candies, drinks, and vapes to impressionable kids.

## Bottom Line

**Reinstitute the federal ban on hemp intoxicants.** Any agreement to “regulate” hemp-derived THC products should be rejected. Regulations would not go far enough, as that approach would still allow these products to remain available. As we have seen with state-level attempts to legalize and regulate marijuana, these products still fall into the hands of young people. Only a complete ban of hemp-derived intoxicants will safeguard public health and safety.

## Reference Links

<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/5-things-know-about-delta-8-tetrahydrocannabinol-delta-8-thc>

<https://monitoringthefuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/mtf2023.pdf>

<https://www.aapcc.org/news-alerts/13302763>

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/21/us/virginia-mother-childs-death-thc/index.html>

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