

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION



August 5, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Thune and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association and the 3,081 elected Sheriffs serving communities nationwide we are writing to urge you to oppose any extension of the hemp provision in the Continuing Resolution that has allowed intoxicating hemp-derived products — such as delta-8 THC, THCA flower, and other synthetic or semi-synthetic cannabinoids — to be sold with minimal regulation under the 2018 Farm Bill's definition of "hemp." This loophole was never intended to create a parallel, unregulated marketplace for intoxicating products, and it should be allowed to close rather than be renewed.

We ask you to let this provision expire for the following reasons:

1. These products are marketed and sold without meaningful safeguards. Many intoxicating hemp products are available in gas stations, convenience stores, vape shops, and online with limited or no age verification, inconsistent product testing, and no standardized potency limits. Consumers often have no assurance regarding product safety or contaminants.
2. They are easily accessible to minors. Because these products are technically "legal hemp" rather than regulated cannabis, they have often bypassed the age-restriction, licensing requirements, and packaging rules that apply to state-licensed and regulated marijuana dispensaries, making them far easier for teenagers to obtain. Sheriffs across the country continue to report concerns about these products finding their way into schools and communities.
3. The potency and chemical composition are inconsistent and often unverified. Products marketed as hemp-derived frequently involve chemical conversion processes to concentrate THC or produce novel cannabinoids that have not been studied for safety, leading to unpredictable effects and a growing number of poison control calls and emergency room visits tied to these products. Law enforcement agencies face significant challenges enforcing laws against products that exist in a regulatory gray area.

Closing this loophole would not eliminate legal access to cannabis products where states have chosen to regulate them, it would simply end an unregulated shadow market that undermines public health and circumvents the very state-level frameworks that were designed to protect consumers.

We urge you to let this hemp provision expire and to support comprehensive regulation of intoxicating cannabinoid products. Thank you for your attention to this important public safety and health issue.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Troy Wellman
Moody County, SD
President
National Sheriffs' Association

Justin Smith
Executive Director, CEO
National Sheriffs' Association