

VOTE “NO” ON SB237-HEMP BILL



1. This is NOT hemp anymore. It is synthetic marijuana. There is no such thing as “psychoactive hemp”; that term is an oxymoron.

Explanation: Natural and legal hemp contains some THC in the form of delta-9 and delta-8, but the levels are extremely low. At harvest, the dry weight must measure less than 0.3% Delta-9 THC. This is why hemp is described as non-psychoactive cannabis. However, labs take the abundant amounts of CBD from hemp and chemically alter it with various solvents to synthetically produce psychoactive THC variants that are just as harmful and toxic as marijuana (which is Schedule I by the DEA). Once the labs touch the CBD, it stops being “natural.” Once THC levels measure above 0.3%, it stops being hemp.

2. Alcohol and cannabis metabolism differ significantly. While alcohol metabolism is predictable and water-soluble, allowing us to determine safe driving times within hours, THC metabolism is unpredictable and fat-soluble, potentially affecting road safety for days. This leads to increased injury, death, and insurance rates with psychoactive cannabinoid use.

Explanation: Alcohol is metabolized through predictable, water-soluble pathways, with breathalyzers and blood alcohol levels correlating to intoxication. THC, however, binds to cannabinoid receptors at unpredictable rates, storing in the body and releasing slowly. This results in different onset and metabolism when vaped or smoked compared to ingestion. Consequently, THC can be detected in the body for a month or longer, making blood levels of THC unreliable for measuring intoxication. Even low THC levels (2ng/mL) can impair reaction time and driving safety.

3. Normalizing and regulating still aids and abets child traffickers and pornographers. Child sex traffickers and creators of child pornography often prefer THC gummies and candies to subdue their victims. While keeping these products out of the hands of children is a worthy effort, we need a total BAN so that adults have less access as well.

Explanation: A major bust in May 2023, out of Michigan, shed more light on this problem. A ring of child pornographers, labeled as one of the most prolific producers and

distributors in the world, used THC gummies. Eagle Forum of Alabama Health Policy Advisor Christine Carr called the trafficking and narcotics division in Michigan to confirm that, yes, the easy access to THC products is a preference. They also have less side effects than drugging children with alcohol or narcotics. The THC vapes tend to be influential in older teens and women who are lured into various trafficking and exploitation schemes. Then, it is very easy to get them hooked on other substances that keep them chemically imprisoned. Another note: outside of the horrors of trafficking and abusing children, there is well established data that the deaths of children from abuse or neglect is most highly linked with marijuana (psychoactive cannabinoids).

4. Licensing and regulating psychoactive cannabinoids makes the AMCC

obsolete. It also ignores the outstanding work done by the AL Board of Medical Examiners to tightly regulate the physicians being trained to utilize marijuana for medical purposes. A weaker version of SB132 is legalizing recreational marijuana.

Explanation: The ALBME rules and regulations are being hailed as the best in the world. Alabama is the first state to require negative pregnancy tests due to their recognition of cannabis harms a birth defects. They require a negative drug screen for all applicants, to prevent substance abuse disorders. They require all patients to be seen in office every 90 days. These are the top of the iceberg, but they are well designed to protect the patient and the public. Licensing and regulating psychoactive cannabinoids for public use is a move in the wrong direction. The ABC Board has neither been consulted nor is equipped to handle such a program. It would require quite a lot of taxpayer monies to regulate well. In order to ensure the AMCC can do their job well, there should be a total ban on any other psychoactive cannabinoids made available to the public.

IN SUMMARY: The **original SB 132** can be an excellent bill, as we await action from the U.S. Senate. We can discuss minor amendments to the original SB132. The current sub is a drastic move in the wrong direction. Any other attempts to grow bureaucracy for the sake of licensing and regulating psychoactive cannabinoids will further harm Alabama.