



Community Update

July 23, 2021

Kentucky

In April, Dr. Ryan Quarles, Kentucky Department of Agriculture Commissioner, sent a letter to hemp farmers across to clarify that because Delta 8 THC is still a Schedule 1 controlled substance under federal law, it remains a Schedule 1 controlled substance under state law as well. *This [article](#)* includes a statement from Katie Moyer, the Kentucky Hemp Program Manager, about the raids of stores across the state that are selling Delta 8 products.

Grant County

In March, Champions for a Drug-Free Grant County completed an environmental scan and found at least **four retailers** selling Delta 8 THC vape pens/e-cigarettes. It is our hope that these retailers will voluntarily comply to cease selling Delta 8 products.

Federal Legislation

The Cannabis Opportunity and Administration Act will be introduced at the federal level by Senator Chuck Schumer, Senator Corey Booker, and Senator Ron Wyden in the coming days. If passed, this bill would decriminalize marijuana at a federal level but still allows states the choice to legalize use of the substance.

Neighboring States

Simultaneously, Ohio is introducing a bill to legalize recreational use of marijuana after barely legalizing a highly-regulated medical marijuana program in 2016. This is already seeing support among officials and municipalities such as that from Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley. More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Such decisions from our neighbors may well put pressure on Kentucky and from there it is only a matter of time before decisions must be made at local levels. Now is the time for conversations about how we will protect our youth from potential negative impacts of legalization.

Marijuana Position Statement released February 2021 and Delta 8 Information can be found here: <https://gcchampions.org/medical-cannabis-position-statement/>. We also sent a Request for Moratorium and provided Best Practice Guidance to city and county officials at that time.