



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2641		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRIS DIGIUSEPPI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DENISE B. MCCRACKEN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-600-7779	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: D.B. MCCRACKEN LAW, LLC		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63118
EMAIL: denise@dbmccrackenlaw.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 1:46 PM
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Chair Myers, Vice-Chair Schulte, and Members of the House Crime and Public Safety Committee,

I am an attorney focusing on Missouri cannabis law at D.B. McCracken Law, LLC. My understanding is that a purpose of HB2641 is to bring all products with hemp-derived cannabinoids under the Missouri Constitution’s Article XIV framework except products that clearly fall within the federal definition of hemp (a total tetrahydrocannabinols concentration of not more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis; see FY2026 Agriculture Appropriations Act, P.L. 119-37, Division B, amending the statutory definition of hemp in 7 U.S.C. §1639o).

For example, cannabidiol (CBD) isolate is a product containing hemp-derived cannabinoids with less than 0.3% total THC. CBD isolate is hemp under the federal definition. Therefore, Missouri marijuana licensees may purchase CBD isolate from in- and out-of-state hemp manufacturers. However, in its current form, HB2641 can be interpreted to bring products that are federally defined as hemp, such as CBD isolate, within the Article XIV framework.

As proposed, Section 195.800.8 of the bill states:

103 8. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, all hemp-derived
104 cannabinoid products are marijuana and shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the
105 department and the office of the attorney general consistent with Article XIV of the
106 Constitution of Missouri and the provisions of this section.

The bill defines “hemp derived cannabinoid products” as

38 2.(4) ... any intermediate or final product
39 derived from hemp, other than industrial hemp, that contains cannabinoids in any form
40 and is intended for human or animal use through any means of application or
41 administration including, but not limited to, inhalation, ingestion, or topical application.

If all “hemp-derived cannabinoid products” are marijuana and “hemp-derived cannabinoid products” are defined as a product containing any cannabinoid (except industrial hemp), then even a product that is federally defined as hemp, such as CBD isolate, must be cultivated, manufactured and sold within the Article XIV framework.

I respectfully ask the Committee (i) to address this expansive interpretation; and (ii) to create a clear legislative record that HB2641 is intended to bring products with hemp-derived cannabinoids

exceeding 0.3% total THC within the Article XIV framework, not products that are federally defined as hemp.

Thank you for your consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GARY WIEGERT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JACK CARDETTI		PHONE NUMBER: 573-680-4009	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MOCANNTRADE		TITLE: SPOKESPERSON	
ADDRESS: 122 E. HIGH ST. FL 3			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JEFF ROORDA		PHONE NUMBER: 314-420-3861	
REPRESENTING: GREAT STATES STRATEGY		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 319 WASHINGTON			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER THOMAS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:34 PM	
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Hemp has helped me to be able to sleep, I have anxiety and it helps me to calm down. I also have back pain and when I use hemp it helps a lot. Hemp is a very important plant in my life.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: PAT KELLY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-786-4747	
REPRESENTING: MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF METRO ST. LOUIS		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 11911 DORSETT ROAD			
CITY: MARYLAND HEIGHTS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63043
EMAIL: pkelly@stlmuni.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 1:55 PM	

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HB 2641 will eliminating statutory confusion that currently exists around intoxicating hemp-derived products. Police officers routinely encounter products that look, smell, and impair like marijuana, yet fall into a gray area that makes enforcement inconsistent and unpredictable. Hb 2641 closes those loopholes exploited by illegal sellers who hide behind hemp labels while operating effectively as unlicensed dispensaries.

This will stop the sale of these products to minors, provide clarity, consistency, and enforceability for local police departments.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: RONALD LEONE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-864-5189
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI PETROLEUM & CONVENIENCE ASSN. (MPCA) PCA		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 205 E CAPITOL AVENUE		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY	STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: ron@mpca.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:02 PM

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My name is Ronald J. Leone, and I am the Executive Director of the Missouri Petroleum & Convenience Association (MPCA).

MPCA is a statewide trade association established in 1937 and we represent many of your constituents who own, operate, or supply gas stations, convenience stores, and truck stops.

I am submitting this written testimony in support of HB 2641 in case I am unable to testify in person.

For several years now, MPCA has supported legislation which allows Missouri retailers to sell any and all hemp-derived products that are authorized and lawful under Federal law.

Conversely, we have strongly opposed legislation supported by the Missouri Marijuana Monopoly which prohibits the retail sale of Federally authorized and lawful hemp-derived products unless they are sold exclusively in their marijuana dispensaries.

We all know that late in 2025, Congress passed legislation which will essentially prohibit the retail sale of intoxicating hemp-derived products as of sometime in November of this year.

However, there is plenty of chatter in DC about Congress amending that law to allow the sale of some intoxicating hemp-derived products.

MPCA supports HB 2641 because subsection 12 on page 15 will allow MO to automatically track and incorporate current and future Federal law when it comes to the selling of Federally authorized and lawful hemp-derived products.

The bottom line is that MPCA supports legislation like HB 2641 because it will allow Missouri retailers to compete with our 8 border states and sell whatever hemp-derived products are lawful under Federal law.

Thank you,



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TOM ROBBINS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-645-5912	
REPRESENTING: MOCANNTRADE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 11:58 PM	
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I am Opposed to this Bill. This smells of Special-Interest and this Industry will fold if this Law is enacted. This Law is being driven by the Cannabis Industry Lobbyists. Defeat this Bill!



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: BYRON KEELIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-402-0655
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE MO		TITLE: PRESIDENT
ADDRESS: PO BOX 2		
CITY: BALLWIN	STATE: MO	ZIP: 63022
EMAIL: freedomprinciplemo@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 6:11 AM

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I respectfully submit this testimony in strong opposition to HB2641. This bill, if enacted, would effectively hand control of the hemp-derived cannabinoid industry over to the established marijuana lobby and a small group of large dispensary operators. Rather than protecting Missourians or promoting public health, this legislation would restrict the production and sale of products such as Delta-8 and other hemp-derived cannabinoids exclusively to businesses licensed through Missouri's already tightly regulated marijuana program.

Such a move would eliminate competition from the hundreds of small retailers, local entrepreneurs, and farmers who currently provide these innovative products to consumers across our state. By consolidating the market in the hands of a few, well-capitalized marijuana companies, HB2641 would undermine consumer choice and shut out the small businesses that are the backbone of Missouri's rapidly growing hemp industry.

This kind of market consolidation stifles innovation, discourages entrepreneurship, and reduces fair market access for independent operators who have played a critical role in growing Missouri's hemp economy. Allowing the marijuana lobby to monopolize this sector is not in the best interest of everyday Missourians or the diverse businesses that have invested in this industry. We should be fostering competition, supporting small business growth, and empowering local communities—not tipping the scales in favor of a handful of large, established players.

For these reasons, I urge lawmakers to reject HB2641 and stand up for Missouri's small businesses, consumers, and the principles of free and fair competition in one of our state's most promising agricultural and economic fields.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRIS CALLAHAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 2:42 PM	

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“29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.” Genesis 1:29, 31

“The greatest service which can be rendered any country is to add an useful plant to it’s culture.” - Thomas Jefferson

“An acre of the best ground for hemp, is to be selected, & sown in hemp & to be kept for a permanent hemp patch.” -Thomas Jefferson

Cannabis, Hemp, Marijuana, Herb, Ganja. Regardless of the word we use to describe this plant, it remains a plant. A seed-bearing herb put on this earth by God. The same God who created you, me, the sun, moon and stars. Cannabis was created for the use of man; for physical, mental, and spiritual purposes.

“The error seems not sufficiently eradicated, that the operations of the mind, as well as the acts of the body, are subjects to the coercion of the laws. But our rulers can have authority over such natural rights only as we have submitted to them. The rights of conscience we never submitted, we could not submit. We are answerable for them to our God. The legitimate powers of government extend to such acts only as are injurious to others” -Thomas Jefferson

“The end of all political associations is the preservation of the natural and imprescriptible rights of man; and these rights are liberty, property, security, and resistance of oppression” -Thomas Paine
Our Rights are inherent. They come from the Creator and they are unalienable. The legitimate powers of government extend only to acts as are injurious to others. Consuming, cultivating, processing, or distributing cannabis harms none. Humanity has an inherent right to grow and use whatever seed-bearing herb is on this Earth for their health and well-being. Humanity has had its natural rights violated by the coercion of the man-made law. Man could never possess the right to outlaw what God created and the punishment, through drug laws, of those exercising their natural rights is a direct transgression against Liberty herself.

“Our Attachment to no Nation upon Earth should supplant our Attachment to Liberty.” -Thomas Jefferson

Freedom doesn’t exist if Nature is illegal. End Cannabis Prohibition today.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: CODY HARRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-300-5577
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: GRATEFUL HEADZ POPLAR BLUFF		TITLE: FRANCHISE OWNER
ADDRESS: 809 WEST PINE ST		
CITY: POPLAR BLUFF		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63901
EMAIL: gheadzpb@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 9:14 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

My name is cody Harris, and I am an owner of Grateful Headz, a Missouri-based hemp retail business that is part of a 15-location franchise operating across Southeast and Southwest Missouri.

For the past seven years, we have operated in compliance with federal hemp law, including age-gating and responsible retail practices. Grateful Headz currently employs over 70 Missourians, and we continue to grow.

HB 2641 attempts to redefine hemp in a way that does not align with existing federal definitions, creating a conflict that would effectively eliminate most lawful hemp products currently sold in Missouri. This is not reasonable regulation. It is a de facto ban that would wipe out compliant businesses like ours overnight.

Missouri businesses should not be penalized for following federal law. Eliminating regulated retailers will not eliminate demand. It will eliminate oversight, testing, and accountability while harming Missouri jobs and communities.

I respectfully urge the committee to oppose HB 2641 and instead work with stakeholders on federally aligned, science-based regulation that protects consumers without destroying Missouri's hemp industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: COREY BOLTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 8:19 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Good morning, my name is Corey Bolton and I am the owner of Grateful Headz in Portageville, Missouri. We are a Missouri-based hemp retail business that is part of a 15-location franchise operating across Southeast and Southwest Missouri.

For the past seven years, we have operated in compliance with federal hemp law, including age-gating and responsible retail practices. Grateful Headz currently employs over 70 Missourians, and we continue to grow.

HB 2641 attempts to redefine hemp in a way that does not align with existing federal definitions, creating a conflict that would effectively eliminate most lawful hemp products currently sold in Missouri. This is not reasonable regulation. It is a de facto ban that would wipe out compliant businesses like ours overnight.

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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES M SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/8/2026 4:32 PM	
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Hello, my name is James Smith, I would like to thank everyone here for allowing me to speak today. I have owned and operated a hemp store SINCE June 16 of 2021, in St Charles MO and Troy MO. I have invested everything I have mentally, physically, emotionally, and financially in my small business.

At my vape shop I sell products containing THCA as well as CBD, But I would like to inform you that all my products are purchased within the United States from a credible distributor and tested in credible labs and if my product does not come with proper and accurate documentation then I will not sell it in my store. I would like to note that THCA is responsible for 95% of my sales and income. If these products were made illegal for hemp shops to sell I can almost guarantee that all hemp businesses would fail. Putting us out of business and leaving us no choice but to lay off our employees. It would be a domino effect, and it would happen immediately. Hundreds if not thousands of jobs would be lost overnight in the state of MO, alone.

What scares me the most is that once this bill goes into effect here comes the black market. This is exactly what they want to happen and I can promise you that the black market is paying close attention praying this bill goes through and when it does then we have a real crisis on our hands. No testing, No labels, the American people wont even know what they are buying or the potency etc.. you can guarantee that the at least 10% of the product will be laced with fentanyl! 100% GUARANTEED I would not want that on my conscious.

I do understand the great concern for our children and strongly agree that these products should be sought after and regulated in a responsible and professional manner. But not in a manner where if you don't own a Dispensary license you cannot sell the product. I feel that it is unfair to us small business owners who have been responsible with this product the entire time.

At my Hemp store you must be 21 years of age just to enter. It says so on my door. And 21 years of age to purchase any of my products. I was already under the assumption that the federal law was you had to be 21 years of age to purchase such products, and in my opinion anyone who would sell to children or young adults under the age of 21 should be held accountable for such actions and prosecuted. I consider those people to be low of the low and complete SCUM.

I beg this committee (please don't let these few irresponsible store owners ruin everything that we the responsible store owners have worked so hard for).

I will close with this.

I have a 16-year-old, 4-year-old and a 7-month-old baby girl and we are expecting again. God Help me.I am the only one who makes the money in our household, and we are barely getting by as it is. If I lose my business due to the new Bill trying to eliminate us from selling legal hemp, I can promise you and the committee not only will we lose our home, but we will lose our vehicles, our lives and everything I have worked so hard for will be wiped out overnight. This terrifies me. I am losing sleep over this, and

it is causing me large amounts of stress, because the last thing any father wants is to fail their children by not being able to put food on their table or provide a roof above their heads

I plead with you (if all these requirements are met, please let us continue being the responsible store owners we already are). Again, please do not let some irresponsible gas stations and convenience store owners ruin everything that we have worked so hard to build.

All I am trying to do is make enough money to put away to hopefully retire at a healthy age and to put my children through college and give them a better life than I had. Isn't that what we all want at the end of the day. Thank you for your time. I really hope that you take this into serious consideration.

Best wishes,

Garden of Weeden

Business Owner

James Smith Telephone Number 314-591-7816



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JESSE HARMS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/9/2026 1:11 PM
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I'm a business owner in the legal cannabis business with 45 employees all Missouri residents. All have family's and house payments and pay taxes. I beg you to educate yourself about cannabis and cannabis products. Most of my 3000 monthly transactions are older people that want to sleep and be out of pain. A great alternative to opioids.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHRYN A HARNES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-353-4188
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI BEER WHOLESALERS ASSOC.		TITLE:
ADDRESS: PO BOX 2302		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: NATHAN SIMPSON		PHONE NUMBER: 636-373-6646	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CANNA CORNER		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: WRIGHT CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63390
EMAIL: nate.simpson0788@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 5:04 PM	
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Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is Nathan Simpson, my wife and I are the owner of Canna Corner, and have owned several Missouri based businesses that have operated legally and responsibly under Missouri’s hemp laws since 2018. Although there’s is no regulatory authority over hemp retail sales. We and others have self regulated for years. Include age gating to 21+, proper testing, and responsible packaging.

I am here today to express strong opposition to House Bill 2641. This bill would force me and others to close our doors, cancel our leases, and lay off employees.

HB 2641 would effectively eliminate a long-standing, lawful industry in Missouri without presenting a clear public safety justification or a viable economic replacement. Hemp-derived retail businesses have existed in this state for over six years, providing jobs, commercial lease revenue, supplier contracts, and consistent sales tax contributions to local and state governments.

If the Missouri legislature’s stated goal is to reduce unnecessary taxation, it is difficult to understand why this bill targets an entire industry that already generates substantial sales tax revenue. For example only one of my locations pays over \$100,000 a year in sales tax. Eliminating hemp-derived retail does not remove demand. It simply pushes consumers toward unregulated, untaxed, and often out-of-state or illicit markets. That outcome reduces transparency, reduces tax collection, and increases risk to consumers.

Rather than eliminating this industry, Missouri should be focused on clear, enforceable regulation and proper taxation. Sales tax collection is already in place and functioning. With reasonable product standards, age restrictions, testing requirements, and labeling rules, this industry can continue to operate safely while contributing revenue to the state.

HB 2641 punishes compliant small businesses that have invested in storefronts, employees, inventory, and local communities in good faith reliance on Missouri law. Many of us have built our livelihoods around rules that the state itself established. Abruptly dismantling that framework undermines business confidence and sends a chilling message to entrepreneurs across Missouri.

In short, HB 2641 does not eliminate risk, it eliminates commerce. Missouri should regulate, tax, and oversee this industry, not erase it.

I urge the committee to reject HB 2641 and instead work with business owners, regulators, and public health experts to improve oversight without destroying an industry that has existed legally in Missouri since 2018.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2641		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RON HICKS		PHONE NUMBER: 636-328-7050	
REPRESENTING: SHAMAN BOTANICALS, SHAMAN PHARMA LLC		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2405 SOUTHWEST BLVD			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64108
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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BILL NUMBER: HB 2641		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RUSS LYONS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: WHITNEY LUPO		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 7:58 PM
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My name is WhitneyLupo, and I am a Regional Supervisor of Grateful Headz, a Missouri-based hemp retail business that is part of a 15-location franchise operating across Southeast and Southwest Missouri.

For the past seven years, we have operated in compliance with federal hemp law, including age-gating and responsible retail practices. Grateful Headz currently employs over 70 Missourians, and we continue to grow.

HB 2641 attempts to redefine hemp in a way that does not align with existing federal definitions, creating a conflict that would effectively eliminate most lawful hemp products currently sold in Missouri. This is not reasonable regulation. It is a de facto ban that would wipe out compliant businesses like ours overnight.

Missouri businesses should not be penalized for following federal law. Eliminating regulated retailers will not eliminate demand. It will eliminate oversight, testing, and accountability while harming Missouri jobs and communities.

I respectfully urge the committee to oppose HB 2641 and instead work with stakeholders on federally aligned, science-based regulation that protects consumers without destroying Missouri's hemp industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CRAIG KATZ		PHONE NUMBER: 314-778-8444	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MOHEMP		TITLE: GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND COMPLIANCE MANAGER/MNG 20	
ADDRESS: 12400 OLIVE BLVD			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63141
EMAIL: ckatz@mngcity.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/8/2026 6:45 PM	
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CRAIG KATZ		PHONE NUMBER: 314-778-8444	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MO HEMP TRADE ASSOCIATION		TITLE: BOARD MEMBER	
ADDRESS: 12400 OLIVE BLVD			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63141
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM	
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: DAVID JACKSON		PHONE NUMBER: 314-406-2933
REPRESENTING: HEMP BEVERAGE ALLIANCE		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: MO
EMAIL:		ZIP:
ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMIE TURNER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-778-6648	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: GRATEFUL HEADZ		TITLE: OWNER	
ADDRESS: 1609 SYKON DR			
CITY: POPLAR BLUFF		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63901
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAUL VEGA JR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 10:41 AM	
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“For the People, by the People”

Honorable Duly Elected Officials,

This effort began as opposition to Ordinance 251028, specifically the provisions relating to cannabis. As public awareness has grown, it has become increasingly clear that this issue extends far beyond a single ordinance or even a single city. What we are witnessing is a coordinated political and legal environment shaped not only by local interests, but by statewide and national influence from corporate, multi-state cannabis operators and their affiliated trade organizations.

As one individual—with a family, employees, and financial obligations—my personal reach is naturally limited. My advocacy is rooted in Kansas City and the State of Missouri. However, the implications of these policies reach far beyond any one person or jurisdiction. Many cannabis and hemp operators in Missouri are legitimate, responsible, tax-paying businesses that have no connection to the so-called “bad actors” often cited as justification for sweeping enforcement actions. These businesses operate with zero nuisance calls, strong compliance records, and genuine community ties, yet they risk being treated no differently than illicit operations.

We, the people, are asking lawmakers, regulators, law enforcement, and the judiciary to recognize this distinction and to carefully consider the unintended consequences of rash, blanket measures, including mass closures. We further call on Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) and the Judicial Branch to stand with the public in protecting community safety, economic stability, and lawful commerce.

There is no dispute that true bad actors exist—entities

that operate as de facto street drug dealers, selling whatever is profitable without regard for safety, legality, or public health. These operations lack ethical standards and undermine the rule of law. However, conflating compliant cannabis and hemp businesses with these actors is not only inaccurate—it is dangerous.

Cannabis policy is clearly moving in a more rational direction nationwide. With cannabis now advancing toward a Schedule III classification, and with legalization beginning as early as 1996, the trajectory is unmistakable. As of 2026, 38 states have legalized cannabis in some form, and full federal legalization is no longer speculative—it is inevitable. Missouri’s legislative bodies should act with foresight and restraint, enacting policies that retain tax revenue within the state, protect small businesses, and

target enforcement where it truly belongs.

Rather than punishing compliant operators, we propose reasonable, enforceable best practices for hemp-derived products, including:

- Strictly limiting sales to adults 21 and older with mandatory ID checks
- Sourcing products exclusively from U.S.-based producers
- Requiring written guarantees that products are Made in America
- Ensuring full compliance with state and federal testing, safety, potency, packaging, and labeling standards

These measures promote consumer safety without destroying livelihoods.

The immediate closure of good-standing businesses would have devastating statewide consequences. Many of these operators are true small business owners—often

owner-operated—who have invested their life savings into lawful enterprises. Sudden shutdowns would trigger bankruptcies, foreclosures, loan defaults, vacant storefronts, lost tax revenue, and family instability, with children ultimately bearing the cost.

Much of the pressure driving these extreme outcomes comes from the Missouri Cannabis Trade Association (MOCANN)—a well-funded trade PAC whose members generate millions annually, yet portray themselves as victims. This posture reflects not public interest, but unchecked greed and monopoly-driven ambition.

MOCANN is part of a broader national network of trade groups backed by large, multi-state operators seeking vertical and horizontal integration across every legal market.

Missouri has already seen the consequences of this influence. The state’s micro-dispensary program, intended to support disadvantaged applicants, has been marred by investigations, license revocations, predatory contracts, and alleged fraud. Reports have documented how well-connected individuals, out-of-state investors, and attorneys affiliated with MOCANN exploited loopholes to

seize control of licenses—undermining both equity and public trust.

Law enforcement voices deserve particular attention here. I have close family members and friends who currently serve, or have retired from service, in police and fire departments across Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas

City, Kansas. Their perspective is consistent and clear: diverting consumers away from tax-paying cannabis businesses only strengthens the underground market. The illicit cannabis market remains active, and street dealers are eager for policies that eliminate lawful competition. Shutting down compliant businesses drives demand directly back to illegal operators, placing more money into their hands. This directly contradicts the original purpose of legalization: to reduce criminal activity, eliminate the underground market, and enhance public safety.

Unlike street dealers, many large corporate operators have chosen to keep prices artificially aligned with the illicit market—not to eliminate it, but to maximize margins. Their current push for exclusivity and enforcement against smaller competitors exposes their true intent: monopoly, not public good. History shows that

monopolistic control of drug markets increases violence, homicides, and community harm.

My Uncle Mike Vega, a retired KCK Master Homicide Detective with an exceptional clearance record (featured on The First 48), and my Uncle Nick Vega, a retired KCK Senior Master Patrolman, are prepared to publicly support these conclusions. As retirees, they are now able to speak freely—something active officers are often prohibited from doing.

At a time when police departments like KCPD and SLMPD remain understaffed, redirecting limited law enforcement and judicial resources to advance the agenda of trade PACs and multi-state operators is indefensible from a public safety standpoint. The priority should be restoring full staffing, strengthening community-police relations, and combating the real threats facing Missouri today: narco-terrorism, cartel-driven trafficking, and the spread of fentanyl, methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and synthetic club drugs. These substances—not regulated cannabis—are the primary drivers of violent crime, overdose deaths, and community destabilization. In closing, all who serve the State of Missouri should remember the enduring principle: “For the People, By the

Missouri has the opportunity to demonstrate true democratic governance by protecting local autonomy, supporting small businesses and farmers, and crafting thoughtful, deliberate policy.

Any legislation or regulation that materially impacts lawful operators should include a minimum one-year implementation period, no earlier than November 12, 2026, to allow for transparent rule-making, economic impact analysis, and meaningful stakeholder input. This approach protects workers, families, landlords, and communities—and ensures that those driven by monopoly and consolidation can no longer hide their intentions. Missouri can lead with reason, fairness, and courage. We simply ask that this matter be given the serious, careful consideration it deserves.

**Kind Regards,
Paul Vega Jr
“For the People, by the People”
816-665-5977**

paulvegajr@protonmail.com



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: WILLIAM WISNER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-358-5088
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: GRUNT STYLE FOUNDATION		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: 7003 SPAVALE DR		
CITY: HIGH RIDGE		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65049
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM
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