



### **Support for HB 1464**

"I support HB 1464 because it takes a step forward in establishing a framework for a retail marijuana market in Virginia. Starting in 2023, it allows certain processors to cultivate and sell cannabis products, providing early access to the market and laying the foundation for a successful retail market in the future."

### **Opposition to HB 1464**

"I do not fully support HB 1464 because it only begins allowing retail sales in 2024. This is not progressive enough in comparison to other states in the cannabis industry. We need to take bolder steps forward in legalizing and regulating cannabis to make a stronger presence in the industry and bring benefits to the state and its citizens."

### **Opposition to HB 1750**

I do not support HB 1750 because it puts the timeline for retail sales back too far to January 1, 2025. This lack of progressiveness is unacceptable in the rapidly growing cannabis industry. We need a more proactive approach that prioritizes the needs of the industry and the consumers, rather than dragging its feet. The bill is not in line with the progress we need to see in Virginia's cannabis market."

### **Support to HB 1881**

I support HB 1881 because it places limits on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Cannabis Control Authority to prevent the creation of a monopoly and ensure equal access for all citizens to enter the marijuana industry. The bill also limits the fee for licenses to \$1,000, making it more affordable for the average citizen to enter the industry.

### **Opposition to HB 2428**

I strongly oppose HB 2428, which restricts advertising in the marijuana industry in Virginia. The excessive restrictions outlined in the bill, such as prohibiting advertisements near schools and playgrounds and limiting reference to the intoxicating effects of marijuana, limit the growth and success of the cannabis industry. Additionally, the bill's criminalization of advertising misleads the public and hinders the progress of a regulated and responsible cannabis market in Virginia. The cannabis industry should be encouraged to grow and succeed in a responsible manner, without excessive restrictions on advertising.

## **Closing Statement**

As a state, Virginia has a unique opportunity to lead the way in establishing a progressive and culturally respectful cannabis industry that prioritizes inclusiveness and fairness for all. The end of cannabis prohibition was not brought about by corporations, but by the tireless efforts of individuals who recognized the unjust nature of the war on drugs and fought for change.

Now, it is our responsibility to build an industry that values the principles of social justice and equal opportunity, and one that prioritizes the interests of the communities that have been most impacted by the failed policies of the past.

We must resist the temptation to allow corporations and special interests to dictate the terms of this industry, and instead create a regulatory framework that supports the development of a diverse and sustainable industry that empowers small businesses and local entrepreneurs.

In short, Virginia has the chance to set the standard for what a responsible, fair, and culturally sensitive cannabis industry looks like. Let us seize this moment and make history by building a truly inclusive and progressive industry for all.

-Savion Hays

CEO / Board Director

The Hemp HOPE Group / The Kush Kommittee

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Support The HOPEE ACT of 2023