



**Comment Title:** Virginia should ban the sale of Delta 8 to protect children

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This is an update to the July 7 testimony and Aug. 5 comments filed by the Virginia Catholic Conference. Since that time, there have been two notable incidents in the Commonwealth that the Hemp Task Force and the General Assembly should consider in responding to the proliferation of Delta 8.

**Four-year-old Spotsylvania boy died from ingesting Delta 8 THC:** In October, CNN, the [New York Post](#), the Fredericksburg [Free Lance-Star](#), NBC 4, WUSA 9 and many other news organizations reported that the mother of a four-year Spotsylvania County boy who died in May after consuming a large amount of Delta 8 THC was arrested. After ingesting THC gummies, the boy was eventually taken to Mary Washington Hospital, and then transferred to the VCU Medical Center in Richmond. He was taken off life support on May 8.

The boy's mother, Dorothy Annette Clements, 30, is charged with felony murder and felony child neglect. Court records show that the child was being cared for by Clements on May 6 when he suffered a medical emergency. According to Dr. Robin Foster, toxicology results showed an extremely high level of THC in the boy's system. [CNN](#) reported that the Virginia Department of Health confirmed the child's death is considered to have been accidental and "the cause of death is Delta-8-tetrahydrocannabinol toxicity."

**Several students sickened after taking Delta 8 THC edibles at Virginia middle school:** At least [seven students](#) at Liberty Middle School in Fairfax County reported feeling ill after apparently eating Delta 8 gummies, according to the school's principal who informed families by letter. Fairfax County Fire and Rescue and police officers were called to the school in Clifton on Oct. 27. Fairfax Fire dispatched several ambulances to the scene. The students were having symptoms of vomiting, dizziness, and slurred speech, according to Principal Adam Erbrecht. Three of the students were taken for medical treatment and the rest were treated at school or were sent home with their families. Fairfax Police determined there was no crime, but the [principal](#) wrote that there might be disciplinary action.

The above cases follow publicly reported THC-edible poisonings in [Roanoke](#) and [Stafford](#) counties. In July, the Blue Ridge Poison Center at UVA Health reported a [five-fold](#) increase in calls for adverse reactions to Delta 8.

These repeated instances of harm to children make it abundantly clear that the Virginia General Assembly should consider banning the sale of Delta 8 as has been done by at least [12 states](#).