



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Illinois Hemp Business Association Responds to Governor Pritzker's News Conference on Hemp Regulation**

**CHICAGO** – In response to Gov. Pritzker's stated support for legislation that would effectively ban most of Illinois' hemp industry, the Illinois Hemp Business Association today issued the following statement:

"The Governor supports hemp regulation, and so do we. That is why Illinois hemp businesses – despite being ignored and dismissed – have long championed balanced, sensible regulations that shield families from bad actors who peddle dangerous synthetics disguised as hemp or shamelessly market to children. However, HB 4293 is not regulation — it's a full-scale ban that wipes out nearly all federally legal hemp-derived products, including CBD lotions, shampoos, and pet care items.

"The legislation would benefit large marijuana corporations at the expense of Illinois residents and the legitimate small businesses that follow federal law, yet does nothing to curb online sales of hemp products to minors from out-of-state companies. We agree with the calls to enhance consumer safety, but we must work together to craft thoughtful, targeted regulations that deliver real public health and economic solutions for our state."

**Below are the critical issues with the push to pass HB 4293:**

### **Hemp Bans Disguised as Regulation Are NOT the Solution**

The broad language in HB 4293 effectively bans virtually all hemp-derived products, including CBD hand lotions, shampoos, and pet care items — products that are legal under federal law.

### **A Rushed and Flawed Bill**

HB 4293 was written and pushed through during the final days of the spring legislative session, leaving no time for meaningful review or input from elected officials or individuals who would be impacted by the measure.

### **What's Really Happening?**

- **A Full Ban Disguised as “Regulation”:** HB 4293 would hand control of the hemp industry to large marijuana corporations while shutting down small and family-owned hemp businesses.
- **Fails to Address Key Issues:** It does nothing to curb online sales of hemp products to minors from out-of-state companies.

### **Hemp Businesses Have Been Calling for Sensible Regulation for Years**

For over four years, Illinois hemp businesses have advocated for strict safety standards to ban underage sales, enforce strict testing and labeling standards, creating a safe, professional industry.

Earlier this year, members of the hemp industry [sent a letter to the Governor](#) outlining their support for responsible regulations (copy attached). Repeated proposals to establish safety standards — like a 21+ age limit and strict consumer protections — have been consistently ignored in favor of sweeping bans that hurt local businesses and eliminate consumer access to legitimate wellness products for people and pets.

### **HB 4293 Protects Billionaires, Not Small Businesses**

This legislation does little to enhance safety or consumer protection, but does a great job of protecting billionaires who dominate the licensed cannabis industry by eliminating competition.

### **Collaboration is Key for a Safe and Prosperous Illinois**

We urge the Illinois House of Representatives to reject HB 4293. Stand up for fairness, small businesses, and consumer choice. Let’s work together to create sensible, effective hemp regulations—not destructive bans.

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### **About the Illinois Hemp Business Association**

The [Illinois Hemp Business Association](#) (IHBA) represents hundreds of independent and minority-owned hemp businesses across Illinois, advocating for fair regulations that protect consumer safety, encourage growth, and foster an equitable industry for all. For more information, visit [ILhemp.org](http://ILhemp.org).