United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 20, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to urge you to support Congress in closing the intoxicating hemp loophole on December 11, 2026, as the law now provides. In 2025, by vote of 76-24, the Senate passed the law to end sale of intoxicating THC products. The choice is simple: stand with American families who don't want candy-flavored drugs sold in gas stations or with the cartel who profits from addiction and devastation. There can be no last-minute "framework" that keeps these drugs on store shelves. On December 11, this dangerous experiment must end.

One year ago, you signed into law the bipartisan agreement that reopened the federal government. In that bill, Section 781 (Public Law 119-37) fixed a drafting failure that has been exploited by the industry for years. When you signed the 2018 Farm Bill, Congress intended to support American farmers growing industrial hemp. It was never intended to legalize the sale of intoxicating THC substances, loosely labeled as "hemp" products, on shelves at gas stations and convenience stores across the country. However, special interests involving cartels and foreign operators from China and Mexico have capitalized on this law and profited greatly. Now, high-potency products have permeated the market and are being sold to Americans throughout the country.

In September, you signed a one-month extension, moving the effective date to December 11, 2026. Your Administration made clear at the time that there would be no further extensions. We ask that you hold to that commitment. Every extension is only a victory for the companies selling these products but a loss for the families who are paying the price.

Many THC edibles are packaged to look exactly like clean candies such as, Skittles, Oreos, and even Cheetos. These are not accidental marketing tactics; they are deliberately designed to appeal to children and lure them into a cycle of intoxication and addiction. These products can trigger psychosis, manic episodes, bipolar relapses, addiction, severe anxiety and depression, and suicidal ideation. It is impairing workers on job sites and drivers on our highways and undermining the readiness of the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces. These are not

abstract risks, they are happening in every state where these products are sold out of gas stations, vape shops, and convenience stores.

A federal "framework" for intoxicating hemp is not a solution. It is a permanent legal license for an industry that has spent years marketing drugs to kids, and it would create an additional federal sanctioned THC market that operates with no rules and no ability for states to regulate on their own. The right policy is the one that is already on the books, non-intoxicating hemp farming, fiber, grain, and seed remain fully protected under Section 781. American farmers growing real industrial hemp are not at risk. However, the chemical conversion of hemp into THC products sold to Americans in packaging built for kids is wrong and must be stopped.

There is broad bipartisan support across our governing bodies. Republicans and Democrats alike have voted to close this loophole and attorneys general from across the country have written to Congress urging no delay and no weakening of the law. Thousands of parents, pediatricians, educators, law enforcement, and public health leaders stand with them.

Closing the hemp loophole once and for all, on December 11, 2026, is an immediate path to Make America Healthy Again. We urge you to oppose any further extension or delay in any upcoming legislative vehicle. We stand ready to work with you and your team to ensure smooth implementation and to support the farmers who grow legitimate industrial hemp.

Thank you for your leadership in protecting America's children.

Sincerely,

Ted Budd
United States Senator

Pete Ricketts
United States Senator

Tom Cotton
United States Senator

Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



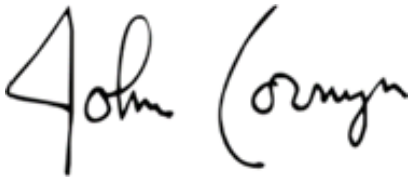
Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator



Joni Ernst
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Mike Rounds
United States Senator



Mitch McConnell
United States Senator



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Chuck Grassley
United States Senator

Jim Banks
United States Senator

Cynthia Lummis
United States Senator

Examples of Intoxicating Hemp Products Marketed Towards Children:



















