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Honorable Terry Roy, Chair
Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee
NH House of Representative

Re: SB 461 Relative to the Definition of Hemp

Dear Representative Roy and Committee Members,

As a licensed clinical psychologist, I work with people living with psychosis, substance use disorders, and co-occurring conditions. My testimony is not to stigmatize cannabis use or the people who use it, but to speak plainly about what the research tells us and what our current labeling practices are concealing from consumers.

The problem is a measurement gap with real clinical consequences.

Cannabis products today can be sold as "compliant" while containing high concentrations of psychoactive compounds that are simply not counted on the label. Multiple cannabinoids convert to psychoactive delta-9 THC upon metabolism. When only one form is measured, a product with a low-looking number on the package can deliver a very high psychoactive dose to the person consuming it.

Senate Bill 461 addresses this directly by requiring that total THC concentration, all forms that become psychoactive, be measured and disclosed. This is not a novel concept. We have measured total alcohol content in beverages for decades because the mechanism of harm doesn't change based on the type of ethanol. The same logic applies here.

Why this matters clinically:

The relationship between high-potency THC and psychosis is one of the most consistent findings in cannabis research. Multiple studies have demonstrated that individuals who use high-potency cannabis products have a meaningfully elevated risk of experiencing a first episode of psychosis compared to those who use lower-potency products or do not use cannabis.

Adolescents and young adults are particularly vulnerable. The developing brain is more sensitive to THC's effects on dopamine systems, systems directly implicated in psychotic symptoms. When a young person or their parent looks at a label that appears compliant and assumes the product is lower potency, they are not looking at complete information. This is a significant gap in consumer protection.

People living with schizophrenia spectrum disorders, bipolar disorder, or a family history of psychosis face amplified risk. Many of my patients have had relapses following use of high-potency products they did not know were high-potency. That is preventable harm.

This bill does not ban any product. It requires honest measurement. It gives consumers the information they need to make decisions consistent with their own values and health circumstances. It aligns hemp-derived THC labeling with the same standard of transparency we already expect in alcohol, pharmaceuticals, and food.

I urge the committee to support Senate Bill 461. **People deserve to know what they are consuming, and clinicians deserve accurate information to have meaningful conversations with the people in their care.**

Respectfully submitted,



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