



March 4, 2024

## **Opposing SB 414 and Requesting Amendments**

Dear Chair Owens, Vice Chair Smith, and distinguished members of the Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice:

My name is Karen O'Keefe. I am the director of state policies for the Marijuana Policy Project (MPP), the largest cannabis policy reform organization in the nation. I am an attorney who has worked on cannabis policy at MPP since 2003.

I am writing to urge you to oppose SB 414. If you advance it, I urge you to remove the italicized text on p. 3, lines 32-36:

- (e) In any prosecution under this section, there shall be a rebuttable presumption of an intent to distribute if any person possesses the following quantities of controlled substances or analogs thereof:
  - (1) 450 grams or more of material *containing any quantity of* marijuana;

This change would treat individuals who find relief from hemp-derived products with small amounts of THC as felons, and flip the burden of proof on them. This is traumatizing and a waste of limited law enforcement and court time.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please don't hesitate to reach out if I can answer any questions or if you would like any draft language.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen O'Keefe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen O'Keefe  
Director of State Policies  
202-905-2012  
kokeefe@mpp.org