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RESEARCH ALERT



A Road Map for Texas Hemp Regulation

In a special session starting July 21, Texas legislators will revisit what to do about the state’s booming, underregulated consumable hemp industry.

Drug policy fellow [Katharine Neill Harris](#) offers a [road map](#) for protecting public health and child safety in alignment with Gov. Greg Abbott’s [veto statement](#) on Senate Bill 3, which would have banned the industry entirely.

Why it matters: The hemp-derived cannabinoid industry has exploded in Texas — and so too have the risks of associated adverse health incidents among adults and children alike.

Key takeaways:

- A total hemp ban would have pushed consumers into the riskier, unregulated market.
- Instead, we need strong regulations to protect public safety and child health.
- This special session, lawmakers should pursue regulations to restrict child access, limit the total amount of THC in a single hemp product serving, and increase resources for regulatory oversight.

Quote: “You can be confident that every single bottle [of liquor] you buy is going to be the same — same amount of alcohol, same ingredients. We don’t have that kind of confidence in the hemp market or the marijuana market right now.” — *Harris on the “[Texas Briefing](#)” podcast*

Go deeper: Click below for Harris’ full list of recommendations for Texas hemp regulation.

Read the Recommendations

Want more?

- A [2024 report](#) from Harris and her co-authors looks in depth at the risks of underregulated hemp products, why a total ban would raise consumer risks, and how the hemp market benefits people with chronic pain.
- To hear our conversation with Harris on effective hemp regulation in Texas, listen to the latest episode of the “[Texas Briefing](#)” podcast, available on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [YouTube](#), and anywhere else you listen.

