

My name is Jazmin Franchezca Hernandez. I bring four years of experience in the cannabis industry, working in customer service, sales, marketing, and product development. In product development, I focused on combining the science of how cannabis compounds interact with the brain and other natural ingredients in order to maximize targeted benefits for consumers.

Many of our districts are home to numerous schools, ranging from elementary to college. However, they are also home to bars, liquor stores, and smoke shops located alarmingly close to these schools. Through research, it was estimated that:

- District 6 has 11 such establishments, some just a 3-minute walk from campus.
- District 8 has 13, with two just a 3-minute drive from Elk Grove High.

District 2 has 18, all within a 3 to 10-minute drive of schools ranging from elementary to high school. My

Yet cannabis lounges, which would provide a controlled and health-focused environment, face scrutiny. If we're comfortable allowing alcohol and tobacco near these schools, why are we so hesitant to establish regulated spaces for cannabis—a substance with proven medicinal benefits, no matter how it is consumed, and established safety protocols? If we're comfortable with bars and liquor stores in our districts, shouldn't we also feel comfortable establishing spaces for cannabis, which offers genuine medicinal benefits?

Fear-based arguments often stem from outdated or irrelevant data. Secondhand smoke concerns are valid, but cannabis is not tobacco. Its effects should not be judged by tobacco and nicotine-driven studies. This pilot program is an opportunity to create a groundbreaking initiative to gather cannabis-specific health data, providing accurate insights rather than relying on corrupted data and misconceptions, in order to create false equivalence.

I want us to think bigger when it comes to health and safety. What if we used this pilot program as a foundation to collaborate with local environmental engineers and even Sac State students pursuing environmental engineering? Together, they could develop an advanced filtration system designed to filter airborne particles the size of PM 2.5 such as industrial and vehicle emissions, as well as from natural resources. This could be revolutionary for buildings beyond cannabis lounges. This system could be adapted for schools, hospitals, other public spaces. Especially during fire season, which continues to threaten our air quality. By investing in innovation, Sacramento could lead the way in addressing environmental challenges while creating local jobs and supporting students entering this vital field.

I'm asking you all to not be limited by fears; but ignited by curiosity. This program is a chance to drive real progress for health, safety, and innovation in Sacramento. It's an opportunity to approach cannabis in a way we've never been able to do with alcohol: with intention, responsibility, and real community oversight. I challenge you all to think bigger, collaborate your strengths, and set a new standard that not only benefits our city and residents, but also our future.