



CALIFORNIA
HISPANIC
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE



May 10, 2022

RE: OPPOSE SB 1097 (Pan) Cannabis Product Labeling

Senator Anthony Portantino (Chair),

We the undersigned are writing to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 1097 (Pan). SB 1097 would add duplicative labeling requirements to cannabis products that will do very little to protect public health or undercut the illicit market, but will instead unfairly penalize legal operators who already comply with stringent labeling and childproof packaging requirements.

California's legal cannabis industry already complies with comprehensive labeling laws from the California Department of Cannabis Control that mandate clear warnings and child proof safety packaging. SB 1097 requires a completely new labeling system, as well as the distribution of a brochure to any new consumers.

In order to comply with the additional requirements of SB 1097, legal operators will be forced to raise their prices. Higher prices in the legal market will push consumers to the illicit market, where products are either not labeled, misleadingly labeled, or laced with other toxic, unregulated additives.

SB 1097 also ignores the proven health benefits of cannabis, instead equating cannabis to cigarettes. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, cannabis was designated by Governor Newsom as an essential business because it is a medical necessity for patients across California.

SB 1097 is a misguided policy that would unfairly penalize legal operators, and lead consumers to turn to the unsafe illicit market. For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to oppose SB 1097.

Sincerely,



Ben Golombek
Executive Vice President & Chief of Staff for
Policy
California Chamber of Commerce



Matt Regan
Senior Vice President, Public Policy
Bay Area Council



Julian Cañete
President & CEO
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