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Bio

BS Degree in Pharmacy, Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Chemistry. Was in the Pharmaceutical Industry for over 35 years with a focus in Quality. Have been the heads of Quality at Pfizer, Johnson and Johnson and most recently Gilead Sciences. Have been at ACT Laboratories for the last 4 years with roles of Chief Operating Officer, co-CEO and currently Chief Science Officer. ACT Laboratories has labs currently licensed in 5 states (Pa, NY, Michigan, Ohio and Illinois) including Trafford Pa. with plans to be in open in Florida and Massachusetts later this year.

Testimony

Thank you Chairman Frankel and to the entire committee for providing me the opportunity to discuss the current state of the use of unregulated cannabis products in Pa. and how we may be able to partner together to ensure the public safety and health of our customers/patients particularly related Delta 8 THC, a unregulated product readily available which has some of the same psychoactive actions as delta 9 THC. As a result of a joint program with Green Thumb Industries and ACT laboratories, 21 different products were purchased from local businesses predominantly located in western Pa all of which advertised selling delta 8 products. The results of that testing was concerning. In summary the results were as follows;

1. Only 4 samples showed results within 10% of the stated label claim for delta 8
2. One sample contained no delta 8
3. 9 samples contained detectable levels of THC with 5 samples having levels above the legal limit of 0.3% (one with 412 mg with a label claim of 1200mg delta 8)
4. Four had heavy metals with one exceeding the state limit for lead
5. Four had microbiological presence all below current state regulations for cannabis

Based on this data it is clear that additional oversight, regulations and control is needed. The logical starting approach for such a program would be testing of products being sold in Pa. coupled with a program implementing a regulated program. These products are intoxicating and would be the purview of an adult use market, which Pa. currently doesn't have.

Some of the challenges/opportunities about testing delta 8 products include:

1. What is done with products ordered over the internet to be controlled and tested coming into the state?
2. Is there analytical methods/capacity in the state needed to test the analytes in question (including kratom)? – With appropriate lead time, it would be expected that adequate lab capacity could be in place. An analytical method for kratom would be easy to develop.
3. Analytical method shortcoming – Analytical methods by their nature can tell you if the specific analytes under test are present and to what extent. What they are unable to do is to say what other contaminants may be present.

In summary there is alignment to there is a call to action to ensure the health and safety of consumers using delta 8 products. Through the implementation of a regulated program, including the requirement

to test products being marketed in Pa to ensure they meet predefined testing criteria, coupled with additional regulatory oversight, the risk to consumers' health and safety can be lessened.