



November 8, 2022

Robert M. Califf, Commissioner  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
10903 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Commissioner Califf:

The National Consumers League (NCL) is America's pioneering consumer advocacy organization, representing consumers and workers on marketplace and workplace issues since our founding in 1899. CADCA is committed to creating safe, healthy, and drug-free communities globally. As leaders of these organizations, we take very seriously the responsibility to safeguard the health and lives of all consumers.

Despite the fact that cannabidiol (CBD) has not generally been recognized as safe by the FDA, there are increasingly more instances of CBD gaining public approval. Agreements such as the partnership recently announced between Major League Baseball (MLB) and CBD maker Charlotte's Web have us concerned, because the lack of regulation of the product is not well understood by the public and this type of agreement sends, in our view, a deceptive message to consumers, implying that CBD is regulated – or at the very least, tested, and proven safe. This is particularly concerning for young MLB players and fans.

As you know, cannabinoid-derived consumer products lack federal regulation, and are inconsistently regulated by a patchwork of state regulations. Consumers use cannabis both recreationally and therapeutically, which is once again, absent regulation, guided by misleading marketing efforts that promise effectiveness – a claim that is not supported by science.<sup>1</sup> Consumers need to know the full story, because in many cases, cannabinoid products are not what they claim to be.<sup>2</sup>

We echo the American Medical Association's concerns recently highlighted in their letter<sup>3</sup>, "At a time when trust in science and medicine is suffering, we must do everything we can to ensure the integrity of our regulatory system, the quality and safety of our drug products, and the safety of our patients."

The FDA has the authority to take strong, effective, and prompt action to protect the public from the potential dangers of unregulated cannabis-derived products. Until the FDA performs the analysis necessary to determine safe levels of THC in CBD products, until then, we urge the FDA to continue to warn the public about the dangers of untested and mislabeled products, in order to require clear health warnings on cannabis consumer products.

We would be happy to serve as a resource on this issue going forward.

Thank you for your attention to this critical public health issue.

Sincerely,



Sally Greenberg, Executive Director  
National Consumers League



General Barrye L. Price, PhD, President & CEO  
CADCA

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<sup>1</sup> [Cannabis Claims: New Website Analyzes Medical Marijuana Companies' Misleading Marketing Practices](#), April 12, 2022

<sup>2</sup> [Cannabis products aren't what they seem](#), June 8, 2022

<sup>3</sup> <https://searchlhf.ama-assn.org/letter/documentDownload?uri=%2Funstructured%2Fbinary%2Fletter%2FLETTERS%2Fltrfdr.zip%2F2022-10-20-Letter-to-Califf-and-Kahn-re-Marketing-of-Medical-Cannibis-v2.pdf>