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Dear Councilmember Frumin,

As a parent of a student in the Palisades, I ask you to oppose the Prohibition of Cannabis Retailers Near Schools Emergency Amendment Act of 2024 introduced by Councilmembers Pinto and Allen unless it is amended. The act as written will not protect the students in the Palisades.

While this emergency legislation prohibits medical cannabis retailers from locating within 300 feet of preschools, primary and secondary schools, and recreation centers without exception, the law fails to define a preschool.

Without a clear definition, the Alcohol, Beverage, and Cannabis Administration is able to exercise its discretion in determining what is a preschool. The lack of a clear statutory definition has left the preschool students in the Palisades unprotected from having a dispensary within 100 feet of their school, and the Allen/Pinto amendment would not to change this.

Including the existing zoning definition of a Child Development Center would provide the public and dispensary license applicants with certainty about where a dispensary could legally be located. A Child Development Center “encompasses facilities generally known as child care centers, preschools, nursery schools, before and after care and similar programs and facilities.”

The Allen/Pinto act could be a step in the right direction, but it needs to provide clear protection for our youngest students.

Thank you for your consideration,

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