



DATE: November 17, 2025

RE: City Council Agenda Item #36 Public Hearing- An Ordinance Amending Various Provisions of Title 17 (Planning & Development Code) Relating to Cannabis Land Uses (M25-003)

Dear Mayor McCarty, Vice Mayor Talamantes, Mayor Pro Tem Guerra, and Councilmembers,

RECOMMENDATION: Child Action respectfully urges the City Council's support of the Planning and Design Commission's recommendation to include child care facilities in the sensitive use buffer requirement for cannabis dispensaries and consumption lounges.

On March 13, 2025, the Planning and Design Commission voted to approve the inclusion of child care facilities within the 600-foot sensitive use buffer. Additionally, given the Planning and Design Commission's recommendation on cannabis dispensaries, we support applying the same sensitive-use buffer to child care facilities and consumption lounges. On April 8, 2025, the City of Sacramento Law and Legislation Committee concurred with this agreement. More recently, on September 16, 2025, the City Council agreed with the Law and Legislation Committee's recommendation to maintain the 600-foot buffer between dispensaries and child care facilities. We strongly recommend that the City Council continue the sensitive use requirements between child care facilities and cannabis businesses.

Since 1976, Child Action has empowered Sacramento County's families by connecting them to high-quality child care. We are proud to partner with 4,204 child care providers serving 20,897 children across our community.

Recommendation to maintain the current buffer requirement for Cannabis Dispensaries and Consumption Lounges:

1. Child Care Facilities Serve "Impressionable Youth"

This proposal's rationale for retaining K-12 schools' categorization as *sensitive use* applies equally to child care. The current proposal asserts that "impressionable youth" are those aged 6-17. Prior staff materials stipulated that child care facilities only serve children aged 6 weeks to 6 years. This is incorrect.

- Child Action alone has 2,190 children aged 6-13 on the subsidy program enrolled in child care within the City of Sacramento.
- The categorization for our largest early education facilities is "licensed child care center." 40 of these within the City accommodate 6 to 13-year-olds who receive subsidies. This figure excludes non-subsidized families, meaning the total number of 6 to 13-year-olds in local child care is far greater.

For these reasons, we urge you to ensure that cannabis dispensaries and cannabis consumption lounges require a 600-foot buffer from child care facilities. Thank you for considering our community's children/young people, as well as the early educators who serve them.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at heidi.keiser@childaction.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi Keiser", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Heidi Keiser
Director of Government Affairs
Child Action