



Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board
Believing, Achieving, Serving

*Chairperson of the Board
Mr. P.J. Daly*

November 21, 2018

*Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Hamilton City Council
Hamilton City Hall
2nd Floor ~ 71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5*

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Members of City Council:

I am writing with regard to Cannabis Store locations and buffer zones to schools. At our meeting last evening, the Trustees of our Board voted unanimously to express our deep concern with the establishment under Bill 36 of a minimum distance of 150 meters (approximately 500 feet) between cannabis stores and schools.

To bring some perspective to our concern, you would know that 150 meters is the approximate size of one and a half sports playing fields and less than the distance for a student to walk from one end of any of our Secondary School buildings to the other. The walking distance for a grade 1 to 8 student in our system to be eligible to receive bus transportation is a minimum of 1.6 kms.

Our schools spend much time in educating students about the negative health impact of cannabis and other drug use. Equally importantly, staff work to ensure that our schools, particularly our Secondary schools, are safe spaces of learning free from drugs, alcohol or any other items that would negatively impact the learning environment. The 150 meters can in no way be considered consistent with the messaging and efforts of our schools to promote healthy lifestyle choices and positive and safe learning environments. This cannot be seen as a safe buffer zone. The many and serious issues associated with the proposed walking distance are very real and will greatly impact schools and local

communities. Most concerning, the distance will certainly lead to increased use and exacerbate the already serious health issues associated with cannabis use by young people.

In light of the established minimum distance, we urge you not to permit retail cannabis stores/outlets in the City of Hamilton. At a minimum, we would respectfully request that a final decision be deferred until consultation/thoughtful discussions can take place regarding this very important matter.

We would be pleased to discuss our concerns with you.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. J. Daly', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

*Patrick J. Daly
Chairperson of the Board*

PJD/lm