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Oregon Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians (O.C.E.P)

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To: Senator Ginny Burdick, Co-Chair
Representative Ann Lininger Co-Chair
Members of the Joint Commission on Marijuana Legalization

Subject: SB 1511 -5 amendments

The Oregon Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians would like to express concerns regarding the proposed -5 amendments for serving sizes of edible marijuana products.

OR-ACEP is a medical society that has represented physicians specializing in emergency medicine since 1971 and its members share a commitment to improve emergency healthcare for all Oregonians.

States that have decriminalized marijuana have seen increases in the number of children requiring medical intervention. High-dose edible products such as candies, cookies and chocolates may play a role because children can't distinguish between products that contain marijuana and those that don't. The call rate to poison centers in states that decriminalized marijuana increased by 30 percent between 2005 and 2011, while the call rate in non-legal states did not change.

States that have legalized recreational marijuana are seeing an increasing number of accidental pediatric exposures. Most of these cases are young children who have ingested high-potency edible products and require hospital admissions. Washington State and Colorado are both showing increased emergency room visits due to accidental ingestion of marijuana products by children. That's why it makes sense to limit serving sizes of marijuana edibles to 5 mg or less in packages of 50 mg or less, to prevent a toxic dose.

OR-ACEP furthermore recommends adoption of language used by the State of Washington that requires **all marijuana edible servings should be individually wrapped in childproof packaging.**

In addition to the use of child-resistant packaging, and limiting serving sizes, we also recommend warning labels and public education to reduce the likelihood of ingestion by young children.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these recommendations and for your efforts to promote children's safety.