



Oregon Poison Center
Serving Oregon, Alaska and Guam

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Feb. 10, 2016

To: Joint Committee on Marijuana Legalization

From: OHSU Oregon Poison Center

RE: Please OPPOSE -5 amendments to SB 1511

Dear Co-Chair Burdick, Co-Chair Lininger and members of the committee,

Oregon Health and Science University and the Oregon Poison Center (OPC) strongly urge your opposition to the -5 amendments proposed for Senate Bill 1511. These -5 amendments would allow a minimum of 10 mg THC per serving and up to 10 servings per package. This amount is dangerous for young children and could lead to coma and severe health effects.

The Oregon Poison Center at OHSU plays an important role in preventing pediatric accidental poisonings; serving as a health care resource and assisting individuals who have concerns about a potential toxic exposure. The nurses, physicians and pharmacists of the OPC as well as our colleagues in Colorado and Washington are trained in toxicology. The OPC staff has managed many cases of toxic exposures from marijuana since the approval of medical marijuana in Oregon. With the recent legalization regarding retail access, increased use and accessibility is expected to result in an increase of children who experience accidental exposure. This is supported by recent published data from the legalization experience in Colorado and Washington. The OPC is already beginning to see an increase in marijuana exposures since the legalization of recreational use and we anticipate these exposures to increase more dramatically once marijuana edibles are readily available for retail sale.

Packaging, labeling and education are essential to mitigate the incidence of pediatric exposures to marijuana, particularly the edible products which are often indistinguishable and enticing to young children. We strongly support child-proof packaging that contains clear information about the ingredients in these products, as well as limitations in the allowable amount of THC to 5 mg per serving. The OPC has been provided the opportunity to participate as a member of the OHA Rules Advisory Committee in the development of packaging and labeling requirements to reduce the accessibility and severity of marijuana exposures, particularly in the pediatric population.

We have been proud of the proactive and collaborative efforts of many organizations and individuals in Oregon to develop packaging and labeling rules that protect children, teens and vulnerable adults from unintended adverse health effects from toxic exposures to marijuana. We strongly urge lawmakers to oppose the SB 1511 -5 amendment which provides limited restrictions and to support that all marijuana edible servings should be individually wrapped in child-proof packaging. Thank you for your time, please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

B.Zane Horowitz, Medical Director
Robert Hendrickson, Associate Medical Director
Sandy Giffin, Director