



Joint Committee on Marijuana Legalization
February 12, 2016
Testimony on SB 1511

The Coalition of Local Health Officials represents (CLHO) the 34 Local Health Departments in Oregon who work to protect the public's health. The CLHO is submitting testimony today with concerns on two proposed amendments to SB 15111, the -4 and -5 amendments.

-4 Amendments – Exception to the Indoor Clean Air Act

Over the years we have worked with the legislature to make Oregon's Indoor Clean Air Act one of the strongest in the nation. In 2015 the Oregon Legislature passed HB 2546, which regulated e-cigarettes like other traditional tobacco products. This bill restricted the use of those "Inhalant Delivery Systems" indoors and was praised by public health advocates from across the Country.

Generally we are concerned about efforts to weaken Oregon's Indoor Clean Air Act and specifically we are concerned about the potential air quality in these proposed "cannabis cafes." Research completed by the Oregon Health Authority on the air quality in Hookah bars (another exception to the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act) show that, "Air quality measurements ranged from "unhealthy" to "hazardous" according to Environmental Protection Agency standards, indicating a potential health risk for patrons and employees.¹" We have concerns about exposing both the patrons and employees to the public health risk from the particulate matter in the air.

-5 Amendments – Potential Marijuana Exposures to Children from Edibles

Strong research evidence indicates that the greater availability of edible marijuana products increases pediatric exposures to marijuana and subsequently increases poisonings from accidental ingestion.

Colorado legalized marijuana in 2012 and has since seen increases in exposures among young pediatric patients. Infants and toddlers can and do overdose on marijuana and tend to have more severe symptoms than are typically associated with marijuana in general. Symptoms in children can include respiratory problems, extreme sleepiness, difficulty walking, lethargy, anxiety, and sometimes hallucinations². The Washington poison center is reporting more calls for marijuana intoxication compared with last year.

Prior to the legalization of recreational marijuana, Oregon was second highest in the country for the rate of calls for unintentional marijuana pediatric exposures reported to poison centers³ and without proper action numbers will likely increase.

Oregon's Local Health Departments have been working through the Oregon Administrative Rule process to support clear, separate labeling/packaging, concentration (dose), and serving size rules for recreational and for medical edible

¹ <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3477955/>

² Repp, K.K. & Raich, A.L. 2014. Marijuana and Health: A comprehensive review of 20 years of research

³ Repp, K.K. & Raich, A.L. 2014. Marijuana and Health: A comprehensive review of 20 years of research

products. Measures must be taken to protect vulnerable young children from accidental ingestion of attractive products that resemble treats like ice cream, cookies, candy, or snacks.

The Coalition of Local Health Officials encourages the Joint Committee on Marijuana Legalization not to adopt these amendments in SB 1511 or in the yet unnamed Christmas Tree Marijuana Bill.

Respectfully submitted,

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