

## Testimony from Helen Ying for SB 1511-5

February 12, 2016

Dear Representative Linninger, Senator Burdick, and Members of the Joint Committee on Marijuana Legalization,

My name is Helen Ying, I am the Chair of Big Village, a coalition of diverse partners working to reduce youth substance abuse in Multnomah County. I am also a retired Vice Principal, an educator for 30 years and am currently a hearings officer for Reynolds and Parkrose School Districts.

Marijuana is a huge issue for our schools, I increasingly see youth who are dealing with the negative consequences of marijuana use and school staff are struggling to provide effective prevention and intervention. Edibles are particularly concerning because of their potential appeal to youth, their ability to go undetected at school, and the delayed onset that may cause inexperienced users (kids) to take large doses before the effect of the THC is felt, resulting in dangerously high dosage consumption.

I strongly urge you to set a **5mg serving size and 10mg package size in individual serving child-proof packaging for the following reasons:**

1) **For child safety:**

- Preliminary data from Colorado's poison control center and hospital emergency room data show that numerous children have accidentally ingested their parent or grandparents' marijuana edibles. This has resulted in significant symptoms including children placed on mechanical ventilators and admitted to ICUs.

2) **For good prevention practice:**

- Although youth are not supposed to get their hands on these products, some probably will, the 5 mg serving size and 10 mg packaging system will minimize risk for youth and for all inexperienced users.

The potency of edibles does not match how most of us eat candy. We don't tend to stop after one small piece of candy. The 5 mg serving size, 10 mg package maximum, but fewer would be preferable, and one serving per package will help the consumer better understand the potency, and most importantly, will help prevent disastrous accidental ingestion by children.

Finally, I urge you to support: child-proof packaging; clear labeling to indicate that the product contains THC, prohibiting candy/snack look-alikes of kids' favorite snack foods, and information about potency and the delayed onset of the effects; and funds for a public education campaign.

Sincerely,

Helen Ying  
[Discover2010@gmail.com](mailto:Discover2010@gmail.com)  
503-803-4555