

Submitter: Marianne Parshley
On Behalf Of: My patients
Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small
Business, and Trade
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1548

I am an experienced general internal medicine physician with experience both with inpatient and outpatient care. Since the legalization of cannabis, I have seen a significant increase in unintentional cannabis intoxication and overdoses in older adults. This primarily happens through unintentional consumption of cannabis products stored in shared kitchen spaces or when they are provided by family members or caregivers who are trying to treat symptoms with what they perceive are safe, natural products. All chemicals we put in our bodies have the potential to cause harm in some people. The amount of risks depends on the dose, the physiology, age and medical history of the person, or the potential interaction with other chemicals/medications ingested, whether they are by prescription or over the counter.

Gummies or brownies or other products that are attractive to adults as well as children increase the risk of unintentional consumption. For those who are older, with changing and slowing of their metabolism, many edible cannabis products for sale in Oregon are functionally excessively high doses. Add in the risk of drug-drug interactions with other medications, particularly psychoactive medications, or the presence of cognitive challenges in the very old, unintended consumption can be very dangerous.

Therefore, I am wholeheartedly in support of reducing the maximum doses of edible cannabis products. Let us protect our most vulnerable community members with this law.

Marianne Parshley MD MACP