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30 Association Drive, Box 190

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office: 207-480-4185

www.maineap.org

Testimony of Deborah Hagler MD, MPH in Opposition to LD 1952 An Act to Allow the On-Sight Consumption of Cannabis on behalf of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee. I am Dr. Deborah Hagler. I have practiced pediatrics in the Mid Coast region for the past 26 years. I am the immediate past President of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I reside in Harpswell.

You meet up with friends afterwork; enjoy a smoke with some pals at your favorite dispensary and you get a text reminding you - it's your turn to pick up the kids at basketball practice tonight- You feel a little high but nah...You're fine. There are 4-5 other parents in the carpool group. You don't want to let the parents down; can't remember exactly who now - the kids know where they live

Do you want that parent picking up your kid? Data from the National Highway Transportation Fatality Analysis Reporting System would suggest that you do not. Analysis from 2000-2018 suggest that deaths from alcohol have remained stable and deaths associated with cannabis or the combination of cannabis and alcohol have increased with both more than doubling.¹ Of course you can test positive for cannabis use for several days so it is hard to know if the cannabis was acutely responsible for the crash but survey data from respondents in Washington and Colorado who had used marijuana in the past 30 days indicated that 43.6% had driven high under the influence of cannabis.²

Acutely cannabis can adversely affect short term memory, judgment, and coordination- not ideal for driving a motor vehicle.³ Indeed in Canada Low Risk Use Guidelines Issued by the Public Health Agency of Canada recommend not driving for 6 hours after inhaling a marijuana product or 8-12 hours after consuming an edible.⁴ Of course you could argue this could vary by a person's level of tolerance but we have no standardized validated mechanism to evaluate how much a person has consumed and if they are indeed safe to drive and neither does law enforcement. Research is under way, but it is by no means ready for mass use.

Once again it feels like we are putting the cart before the horse with marijuana. Because it remains a scheduled one drug much guidance remains to be determined. LD 1952 fails to completely understand the full public health impacts of onsite consumption. We can do better, and we can do this safer. We should not rush when lives are at stake.

1.Lira MC, Heeren TC, Buczek M, Blanchette JG, Smart R, Paucula RL, Naimi TS. Trends in Cannabis Involvement and Risk of Alcohol Involvement in Motor Vehicle Crash Fatalities in the United States, 2000–2018. *Am J Public Health*. 2021 Nov;111(11):1976-1985. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2021.306466. Epub 2021 Oct 28. PMID: 34709858; PMCID: PMC8630490.
2.Davis KC, Allen J, Duke J, Nonnemaker J, Bradford B, Farrelly MC, Shafer P, Novak S. Correlates of Marijuana Drugged Driving and Openness to Driving While High: Evidence from Colorado and Washington. *PLoS One*. 2016 Jan 22;11(1):e0146853. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0146853. PMID: 26800209; PMCID: PMC4723241.
3.Breijyeh Z, Jubeh B, Bufo SA, Karaman R, Scranio L. Cannabis: A Toxin-Producing Plant with Potential Therapeutic Uses. *Toxins (Basel)*. 2021 Feb 5;13(2):117. doi: 10.3390/toxins13020117. PMID: 33562446; PMCID: PMC7915118.
4.Fischer B, Robinson T, Bullen C, Curran V, Jutras-Aswad D, Medina-Mora ME, Paucula RL, Rehm J, Room R, van den Brink W, Hall W. Lower-Risk Cannabis Use Guidelines (LRCUG) for reducing health harms from non-medical cannabis use: A comprehensive evidence and recommendations update. *Int J Drug Policy*. 2022 Jan;99:103381. doi: 10.1016/j.drugpo.2021.103381. Epub 2021 Aug 28. PMID: 34465496.

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