



**Testimony of Maine Public Health Association in Opposition to:
LD 2147: An Act to Remove the Requirement for Edible Cannabis Products to Be Stamped or Embossed
on Each Serving with a Universal Symbol**

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
State House, Room 437
Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Good morning, Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. My name is Rebecca Boulos. I am a resident of South Portland and executive director of Maine Public Health Association.

MPHA is the state's oldest, largest, and most diverse association for public health professionals. We represent more than 700 individual members and 60 organizations across the state. The mission of MPHA is to improve and sustain the health and well-being of all people in Maine through health promotion, disease prevention, and the advancement of health equity. As a statewide nonprofit association, we advocate, act, and advise on critical public health challenges, aiming to improve the policies, systems, and environments that underlie health inequities – but which also have potential to improve health outcomes for all people in Maine. We are not tied to a national agenda, which means we are responsive to the needs of Maine's communities, and we take that responsibility seriously.

MPHA is in opposition to LD 2147: "An Act to Remove the Requirement for Edible Cannabis Products to Be Stamped or Embossed on Each Serving with a Universal Symbol." This bill removes the requirement that individual cannabis edibles be labeled as containing cannabis.

Cannabis edibles pose unique risk to children who may mistake them for food or candy. Removing this labeling requirement will contribute to a major driver of accidental youth ingestion, which are "copycat" products (see below). Indeed, the number of poison center calls in Maine related to consumption of cannabis products among **children under 5 years old increased by 120% between 2017 and 2021.**¹

Removing this requirement could also contribute to accidental overconsumption by adults. In 2020, in Maine, there were 5,632 cannabis-related emergency department visits, representing a 21% increase from 2019.¹ Rates were disproportionately higher for males and for people ages 18 to 25 years old. We are concerned these rates will continue to climb if this safety provision is rolled back.

Maine's Department of Health and Human Services has prepared [county-level fact sheets](#) about adult and youth use of cannabis. In addition, the Maine State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup has prepared a [fact sheet](#) about cannabis use and consequences.

There are labeling changes that would promote public health and safety, including:

1. **Making labels easier to read and understand.** The minimum health and safety warning label

- font size is 6pts (example). An increase to 10pts minimum would be much easier to read (example).
2. Adding a “Not safe for kids” label requirement on all products (currently this is optional).
 3. Providing clearer information about potential drug-nutrient and drug-drug interactions (i.e., THC interactions with other drugs).


Removing this universal label is likely to increase the number of accidental ingestions, especially among young children, and unintentional overconsumption by adults. Please do not rollback this important public health and safety provision. Thank you for considering our testimony.

¹ [Cannabis Use Dashboard](#). Maine State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup.


Edible Cannabis Product Examples from a Company in Maine

Crunch Ropes

Our Crunch Ropes contain 50mg of THC. Each package contains one Crunch Rope.




HOME DAILY DEALS STORE LOCATOR MORE | Q W R




Blueberry
Our Maine Blueberry flavored gummy base coated in crunchy tart candy.

Cherry
Our delicious classic Cherry flavored gummy base coated in crunchy tart candy.

Grape
Grape flavored gummy base coated in crunchy tart candy.



Mac & Cheese
Introducing our delectable 50mg Mac & Cheese, a delightful fusion of rich and creamy macaroni smothered in a luscious cheese sauce. Elevate your taste buds to new heights with this delectable treat, harmonizing the timeless comfort of macaroni and cheese with the blissful benefits of



Cheese Pizza
Introducing our 25mg Frozen Cheese Pizza, a delectable cannabis-infused treat crafted with utmost precision. Enjoy a mouthwatering pizza, generously topped with gooey cheese and savory medicated sauce. Elevate your culinary experience with this gourmet delight, expertly infused to

Edible Cannabis Product Examples from a Company in Maine



Ramen - Beef

Our mouthwatering 25mg Beef Ramen is the perfect fusion of comfort food and cannabis goodness! This delectable package of ramen soup is not your average fix; it's a tantalizing blend of beefy flavors with just the right amount of cannabis-infused magic. With every savory slurp, you'll experience the



Ramen - Chicken

Elevate your taste buds and experience pure culinary delight like never before! This heavenly bowl of noodles combines the comforting flavors of succulent chicken with the perfect balance of cannabis-infused broth. Each serving contains precisely 25mg of high-quality cannabis, ensuring a



Mug Cakes - White Rainbow Chip


Our 100mg Mug Cakes in a sweet & fun white cake with rainbow chips, thoughtfully crafted to elevate your cannabis experience. Indulge in the



Crunchy Munchies - Cookies & Cream


Chex base coated in a medicated cookies & cream mix. Each Crunchy Munchy contains 6mg of THC.

Edible Cannabis Product Examples from a Company in Maine



Peanut Butter Cups

Our delicious, hand made peanut butter cups are a quick, easy and yummy way to medicate. Each cup contains 25mg of THC.



Gingerbread Cookie

Sold Out Until Next Winter

Our 100mg Gingerbread Cookie is a delightful experience from start to finish. Picture this: a beautiful gingerbread cookie, generously coated with velvety white icing that glistens