



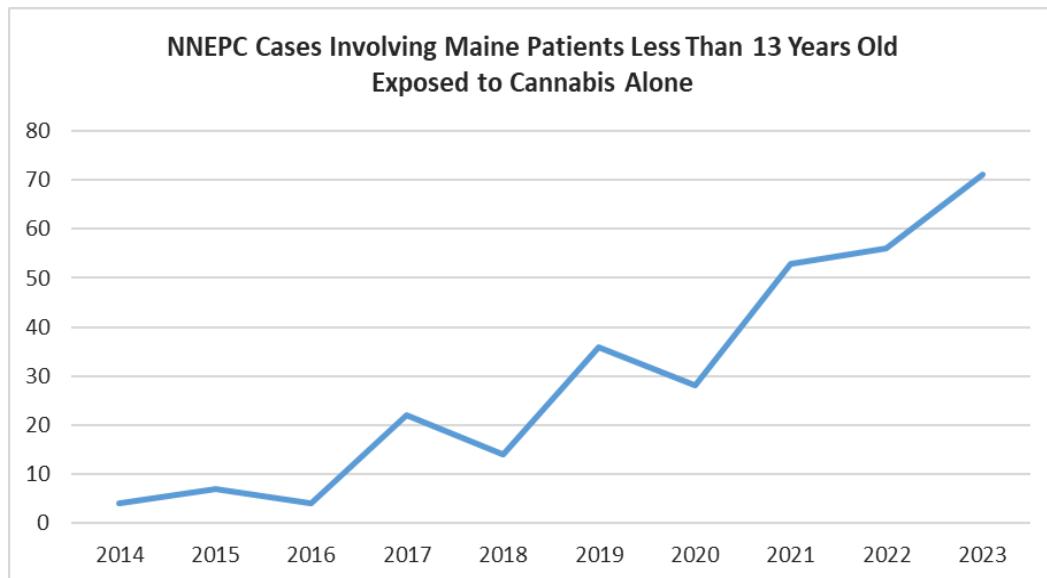
**Testimony of Victoria Frankl, RN
Northern New England Poison Center
Against LD 2147**

**“An Act To Remove the Requirement for Edible Cannabis Products to Be Stamped or Embossed on Each Serving With a Universal Symbol”
January 24, 2024**

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Victoria Frankl. I am a Registered Nurse and Certified Poison Information Specialist at the Northern New England Poison Center (NNEPC). I am here today to testify against LD 2147, “An Act To Remove the Requirement For Edible Cannabis Products to Be Stamped or Embossed on Each Serving With a Universal Symbol.”

The NNEPC, located in Portland, ME, provides a free, 24-hour poison emergency and information hotline, serving both the general public and healthcare providers. Nurses and pharmacists manage the service with toxicologists are available at all times to consult on difficult cases. The center manages nearly 28,000 human exposures per year, with close to 17,000 of those human exposures being in Maine.

Unintentional cannabis poisoning cases among children have been increasing, and the NNEPC has seen an increase in calls and consults over the past decade, particularly after adult use storefronts opened. In 2020, the poison center managed 28 cannabis poisoning cases among children age 12 or younger in Maine. In 2023 this number increased to 71, with more than half being children age 5 or younger.



Hotline Call Center & Administrative Office:

Northern New England Poison Center
22 Bramhall Street
Portland, ME 04102
Phone: (207) 662-7222 • Fax: (207) 662-5941

New Hampshire Education Office:

NH Department of Health & Human Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301
Phone: (603) 770-7954

Vermont Education Office:

University of Vermont Medical Center
Community Health Improvement
128 Lakeside Avenue, Suite 106
Burlington, VT 05401
Phone: (802) 847-2392 • Fax: (802) 847-6545



Of these cases, nearly half experience moderate or major symptoms. Potential symptoms of cannabis exposure are dependent on the amount taken and the tolerance of the individual, among other things. In severe cases in children, there is potential for seizures and significant drowsiness requiring the use of a ventilator to breathe.

Some case examples of accidental cannabis edible ingestion that the poison center has recently managed in Maine include:

- A 6-year-old who ate gummies at a family friends' home experienced vomiting, inability to eat and drink, dizziness, twitching, and dilated pupils, and was observed in the hospital for 6 hours
- A 7-year-old who ate a chocolate bar given to their parent by a friend experienced anxiety, tearfulness, elevated heart rate and vomiting, and was observed in the hospital for 8 hours
- A 70-year old who was naïve to THC ate a chocolate bar belonging to their spouse, experienced chest pain and was seen in the emergency room in the middle of the night

Unintentional cannabis poisonings are largely preventable with clear labeling, secure packaging, and safe storage. The poison center spends a great deal of time and resources educating healthcare providers, prevention professionals, and the lay public about cannabis safety, including safe storage and how to read labeling. The state should be supporting policies that would prevent unintended exposures, not policies that have the potential to increase them. We should be doing what we can to make sure products are clearly branded so that people know what they are consuming. It is likely that removing this safeguard will increase poisonings.

Thank you for your time, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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