



June 6, 2017

The Honorable Ed Chau
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0049
Fax: (916) 319-2149

RE: AB 823 (Chau): Edible marijuana products: labeling.
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Chau:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 board-certified California pediatricians, strongly supports your proposed legislation AB 823 (Chau). This bill would require the Bureau of Marijuana Control to design a distinguishable and easily recognizable universal symbol for labeling of edible marijuana products, and would require that edible marijuana products be marked with the symbol.

Marijuana edibles are uniquely dangerous because they are frequently indistinguishable from normal baked goods or candies. As such, anyone—and especially children—might consume these edibles without being aware that they are infused with marijuana. Since edible marijuana products are slower to absorb into the consumer's system than smoked or vaporized marijuana, it would be very easy for a child or teen to accidentally consume an extraordinarily large amount of marijuana before noting any effects of the drug at all. This can be extremely hazardous to a child's health: marijuana toxicity in children can lead to loss of coordination, extreme drowsiness, and even respiratory difficulties and coma.

AB 823 (Chau) would significantly reduce the risk that Californians, including children and teens, would knowingly or accidentally consume marijuana edibles by requiring that edible products be stamped with a recognizable, universal symbol. This would make sure that teens and older children do not mistake marijuana products for their non-drugged equivalents, and would also ensure that adults do not mistakenly distribute marijuana edibles to children.

California pediatricians strongly support AB 823 (Chau). We thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nancy Graff'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Nancy' written in a more legible script and the last name 'Graff' in a more stylized, looped cursive.

Nancy Graff, M.D., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics
State Government Affairs Committee, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

CC: Kris Calvin, CEO; AAP-CA Leadership; Lydia Bourne