



April 21, 2017

The Honorable Henry Stern
1020 N Street, Room 3070
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 651-4927

RE: SB 794 (Stern): Consumer Safety Standards for Edible Marijuana
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Stern:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 board-certified California pediatricians, strongly supports your proposed legislation SB 794 (Stern). This bill would create consumer safety standards for edible marijuana products by requiring single serving edible marijuana products to be stamped or imprinted directly on the edible with a universal symbol, and would require the edible marijuana product to be sold in tamperproof and child resistant packaging, and be re-sealable if the product contains more than one serving.

The State of Colorado legalized marijuana for recreational use in 2012. In an effort to track pediatric marijuana exposure before and after legalization, a 2016 study by the journal JAMA Pediatrics found that between January 2009 and December 2015 there were 163 marijuana exposure cases for children under 10 years old in Colorado. Eighty-one patients were evaluated at Children's Hospital Colorado, Aurora. The median age of the eighty-one patients was 2.4 years and infused edibles were involved in 30 cases. To prevent cases like those in Colorado from happening in California after last year's Prop 64/Adult Use of Marijuana Act, we must pay close attention to consumer protection, especially for children.

SB 794 (Stern) would significantly reduce the risk that Californians, including children and teens, would accidentally consume marijuana edibles. Re-sealable, childproof packaging deters young children from consuming what they might easily think are simple desserts, while the universal symbol will help others, including adolescents and young adults, avoid unknowing ingestion of marijuana products they might encounter at home, at social events, or at friends' houses. These are necessary steps to protect California's consumers, and our children, from accidental marijuana consumption.

California pediatricians strongly support SB 794 (Stern). 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, consisting of a stylized, cursive name followed by the letters "MD".

Yasuko Fukuda, M.D., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Vice Chair, District IX of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Executive Board, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

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