

Support HB 2320 by asking legislators to vote “Aye”

HB 2320 - Concerning high THC cannabis products is being heard in Executive Session, Monday, 1/29,2024, 8 AM, before the House Regulated Substances and Gaming Committee. A majority of the committee must support the bill for it to continue to be considered by the 2024 legislature.

What would HB 2320 do?

In short, **HB 2320** would

- Require the Department of Health to develop optional training for retail cannabis staff about health and safety impacts of high THC cannabis products.
- Increase the minimum legal age of sale of cannabis products with a THC concentration greater than 35 percent, to be age 25, with an exception for qualifying patients and designated providers.
- Require the University of Washington Addictions, Drug & Alcohol Institute (ADAI) to develop and implement guidance and health interventions for health care providers.

The media knows how bad this stuff is.

Most major newspapers and broadcast media in Washington have editorialized about the need to control the burgeoning availability of these manufactured THC products that can have THC concentrations approaching 95 percent. On January 24, [The Seattle Times](#) aggressively scolded the state legislature for not regulating these products.

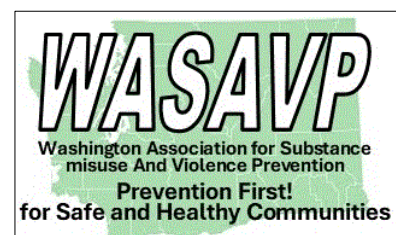
High potency THC products are linked to severe health problems.

At a January 16 public hearing, several young people, or their parents, spoke about developing a chronic vomiting condition known as Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome (CHS) after using high potency THC products. CHS can kill.

High potency THC products are linked to mental health issues. “It’s just getting worse in terms of the number of kids who are being impacted by cannabis because the potency is so high. We’re now seeing many more mental health issues — schizophrenia, psychosis, depression, anxiety,” said Dr. Leslie Walker-Harding of Seattle Children’s.

Health impacts from high potency THC fall hardest on young people which is the reason for raising the purchasing age for these products to 25 years old. Research shows the brain is more capable of withstanding the effects of these products after 25.

Please contact Scott Waller, tumh2o99@comcast.net, if you have any questions.



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The cannabis industry is aggressively resisting regulation of these products.

Sales of these expensive high potency THC products have increased to 35 percent of the state’s cannabis retail sales. The cannabis industry is very protective of this gold mine. They have made large political contributions to key politicians to fend off regulation, often at the cost of the health of users of the products.

Rep. Lauren Davis, D-Shoreline, prime sponsor of HB 2320, said, “I’m in this position of power where I theoretically can do something, but the inertia of the Legislature on this particular topic has been frustrating,” she said.

What can you do?

One of the things you can do is to tell members of the House Regulated Substances and Gaming Committee that you want them to vote “Aye” on this bill. A majority of that committee needs to vote in favor of the bill for it to continue on this session. A large turnout of prevention advocates supporting the bill will get noticed by legislators.

You can contact legislators yourself if you are doing that after your paid work hours and using your own equipment. Do not name your coalition or organization if you receive public funding. Members of your coalition or organization can also reach out. So anytime this weekend, you could communicate with the legislators. Identify yourself as a private citizen concerned about the impact of substance misuse and violence on youth.

There are three good ways to communicate your support of this bill to legislators.

1. Send an email to the legislator and their legislative aide

Here is suggested text for an email: “Dear Representative _____. My name is _____ and I am a private citizen concerned about the impact of substance misuse and violence on our youth. Please vote “Aye” on Monday, 1/29, to pass HB 2320 out of the House Regulated Substances and Gaming committee. This important bill will increase public awareness about high potency THC products and will address the disproportionate impacts of these products on young adults.” Add stories you know of people you know who have had health impacts from using these products,

2. Write out a message like the email (above) and call the legislator’s phone number. If someone answers, read your message to them. If not, leave it as a message.
3. Call the Legislative Hotline, 1-800-962-6000, and tell them you want to leave a message for the members of the House Regulated Substances and Gaming Committee to vote “Aye” on HB 2320 due to its profound and scary health impacts on young people.

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