

Good morning committee members, and thank you for having me. My name is Robin Gribbon. I am a Colorado mom and I'm representing myself.

My son was 15 when he started using marijuana in Colorado. I didn't panic. I smoked weed when I was a teenager too. And I was hearing that it has all kinds of health benefits!

Some people can smoke weed their whole lives and experience no problems. But a not-insignificant percentages develop health issues like serious depression and psychosis.

One of many harms my kid suffered was cannabis hyperemesis syndrome. We didn't know the name of this condition at the time. One morning he started vomiting violently and feeling severe abdominal pain. I thought he had the flu. After 8 hours of violent illness and screaming out in pain, I took him to the emergency room. They thought he had food poisoning, but the usual drugs that stop vomiting didn't work. So they tried Haldol. It worked, but this kept happening over and over. The doctors ran some expensive tests to rule things out. Around the third incident, I started googling and found a little group on Facebook with about 300 members called recovery from CHS. I showed it to him. He said, oh no mom, it can't be the weed – weed is great for nausea. Even a nurse wondered if he was smoking all organic stuff? He went to the ER 11 times over nine months, billed at nearly \$100,000.

CHS is torture, and eventually people who have it try anything to make it stop. Including giving up the weed. Quitting was extremely hard for my kid, but eventually he got to the other side.

It's been three years since then. That little Facebook group I mentioned? It now has nearly 17,000 members. Adults experience CHS too. Right now, emergency departments in our state are seeing CHS every single day - ask your ER docs about it. I think it's time to let consumers in on this dirty little secret.

The simple warning label we developed in Colorado would have avoided all of this, because at least *I* would have had a head's up. Colorado created warning labels because legislators heard from a critical mass of real people who are experiencing real harms. They are decently transparent, give the industry some cover, and they help clear up confusion for consumers

Robin Gribbon