

Legislators,

I am the Executive Director of Richmond Rescue, providing 911 ambulance service to seven towns in Chittenden County, and a resident of Essex.

I was dismayed to hear that you are hearing testimony that suggests increasing potency limits and increasing the amount of THC per package. These changes will lead to more utilization of ambulance service and more utilization of the health care system.

While many in the industry will claim that there is little risk in using THC, we have not found that to be true. We often see patients suffering from Cannabis Hyperemesis Syndrome (CHS). CHS leads to severe, intense vomiting. They are frequently unaware that it is linked to their THC use.

We have also seen patients who have taken more than the intended amount of THC due to poor labelling or an accidental ingestion (children). While improved labelling will help adults, those who are too young to read are at risk of accidental ingestion. The smaller the package size, the lower the chance of a significant ingestion.

I suggest leaving the limits where they are until there is proper data to support making a change. I'm sure the ER physicians and toxicologists will weigh in with what they have seen in the ER. Feel free to get in touch if you have any questions.

Michael Chiarella