



## Youth Services

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### Wasco County through Department of Youth Services Supports SB 1548 – Cannabis edibles

Cannabis edibles pose unique and well-documented risks to children and youth. Unlike inhaled cannabis, edibles are often indistinguishable from non-cannabis foods such as candy, baked goods, or snacks, increasing the likelihood of accidental ingestion by young children. Because the onset of effects is delayed, users—particularly youth—may consume more than intended, leading to over-intoxication.

For children, accidental ingestion of cannabis edibles can result in serious adverse effects, including extreme drowsiness, confusion, vomiting, impaired coordination, slowed breathing, and, in some cases, hospitalization. Emergency department visits for pediatric cannabis exposures have increased in states with legalized cannabis, with edibles being the most common source.

Among adolescents, edible cannabis use is associated with impaired memory, attention, learning, and judgment. Youth may underestimate the potency of edibles or perceive them as safer than other forms of cannabis, increasing the risk of overconsumption, school-related problems, and mental health harms.

Requiring cannabis edibles to be packaged as single-unit servings with a clear potency limit provides an important public health safeguard. Single-serving limits reduce the likelihood of excessive consumption in a single sitting and help consumers better understand and control dosage. For youth and young adults, this clarity is particularly important given developmental vulnerabilities and higher sensitivity to THC.

Individual packaging also reduces the risk that a child will consume multiple doses unintentionally and supports clearer labeling, storage, and education for adult consumers. Evidence from public health research indicates that standardized serving sizes improve consumer awareness and reduce accidental overuse.

Packaging requirements tailored to protecting minors—such as child-resistant packaging, non-appealing designs, and clear warnings—are proven strategies for reducing youth access and accidental ingestion. Health inserts and labels describing risks associated with cannabis and hemp-derived cannabinoids further support informed decision-making and reinforce prevention messaging.

Allowing local governments to establish expanded buffer zones around cannabis operations adds an additional layer of community-level protection, particularly for schools, childcare centers, and youth-serving spaces.

**Wasco County Youth Services and YouthThink request a Yes Vote on SB 1548.**

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