

February 20, 2026

Chair and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade,

My name is Pam Pearce. I have spent most of my life in Oregon and continue to work as a substance use prevention advocate, serving Oregon youth and families. I am also in long-term recovery. I am writing in support of SB 1548.

SB 1548 is a straightforward, evidence-based policy that protects children and youth by limiting each edible to one 10 mg serving and requiring individual wrapping. Washington implemented similar standards and saw a significant reduction in hospitalizations and poisonings among young children.

In 2023, **children aged five and under accounted for one-third of cannabis-related cases** reported to the Oregon Poison Center. **That alone should demand action.**

I recognize that the Economic Development Committee is tasked with evaluating financial impacts. During Senate floor discussions, much of the opposition centered on concerns that sales might decline and state tax revenue could decrease. While fiscal considerations are part of policymaking, allowing cost-to-industry arguments to dominate the conversation risks obscuring the central issue before you: preventable harm to children and youth. SB 1548 responds to documented increases in pediatric poisonings and the risks associated with widely available high-potency THC products.

Oregon does not hesitate to set safety standards in other industries when evidence shows harm. Cannabis should not receive special consideration simply because it generates revenue. When evidence shows that single-serving packaging reduces hospitalizations and poisonings, the responsible question is not “What will this cost industry?” It is “What will it cost families and, ultimately, the state if we choose not to act?”

SB 1548 does not restrict adult access to legal products. It closes a dangerous loophole in high-potency products and aligns Oregon with proven safety standards.

Oregon has long prided itself on protecting vulnerable communities. Surely our most vulnerable residents are our children, whose developing brains make them uniquely susceptible to harm. That commitment must include protecting them from preventable exposure to high-potency THC products.

I urge you to support SB 1548.

Sincerely,



Pam Pearce

Prevention Advocate, Co-Founder, Oregon's First Recovery High School