

Written Testimony in Support of SB 1548
Tony Vezina, Executive Director, 4D Recovery

Chair Nguyen, Vice Chairs Isadore and Skarlatos, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade,

My name is Tony Vezina, and I serve as the Executive Director of 4D Recovery, a nonprofit organization providing addiction recovery and mental health services to adolescents and young adults across Oregon and Washington. I am writing in support of SB 1548.

The solutions outlined in this bill are smart, measured legislation. They do not eliminate access to legal cannabis, nor do they undermine the regulated market. Instead, they introduce reasonable guardrails designed to reduce preventable harm—particularly among youth.

At 4D Recovery, we operate adolescent outpatient treatment programs. A significant number of the youth we serve struggle with cessation of marijuana use. Many genuinely believe cannabis poses little to no risk and often cite its perceived medicinal benefits. They are growing up in an environment where social messaging, marketing, and cultural narratives frequently emphasize positive attributes while minimizing real risks.

This creates a challenging dynamic in treatment. It is difficult for clinicians, peer mentors, and families to have honest conversations about potential harms when broader societal messaging reinforces the idea that marijuana is harmless. Clear labeling requirements and sensible packaging standards help restore balance to that conversation. Accurate warnings and defined single-serving units are not extreme measures—they are practical tools that support prevention and informed decision-making.

Even the New York Times Editorial Board recently articulated that legal marijuana requires stronger regulation to address public health concerns. That perspective reflects a growing national recognition that legalization does not mean absence of responsibility. Smart regulation is not anti-market—it is pro-public health.

SB 1548 reflects thoughtful policymaking. Individually wrapped single servings, clearer warning labels, and restrictions on highly concentrated products are simple solutions that help reduce accidental ingestion, overconsumption, and youth exposure to high-potency products.

From our direct experience working with adolescents and young adults, we see firsthand how normalization without adequate guardrails can create harm. This bill represents a balanced approach that prioritizes prevention while maintaining a legal marketplace.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support of SB 1548.

Sincerely,
Tony Vezina

Executive Director
4D Recovery