

Submitter: William Walsh

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1548

I am the Human Resources and People, Culture, Compliance Manager at a cannabis company in Portland. Our organization is focused on operating safely, legally, and with integrity aforethought. My position requires me to keep up with all relevant laws, rules, and regulations and am thus acutely aware of the time and labor investment required to operate our business legally. As residents and members of the community we serve, we strive to keep our neighbors and customers safe by following the law and staying educated. I am providing testimony today in opposition to SB 1548A because I believe the regulation do little to keep Oregon's children safe but will have devastating effects on the environment and economy. Children who find cannabis candies are unlikely to be deterred by all but the strongest deterrents. The best way to keep them safe is for parents and caregivers to keep their cannabis out of reach and secured. The extra packaging for each 10mg would require more plastic or other materials with deleterious environmental effects. In addition an edible company with whom we work has indicated they would dissolve their business as the packaging requirement would be too costly to make a consistent profit. If other companies make the same decision, hundreds of Oregonians would lose their jobs in an precarious market.

The environmental and economic consequences of this bill simply do not outweigh the marginal benefit of extra packaging. Other measures such as resealable child-resistant packaging for edibles would require little extra investment and likely have the same effect on child exposure to cannabis.