

Submitter: Briana Ortega

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1548

Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express urgent concerns regarding SB 1548A, currently in your Economic Development Committee. The goal of safeguarding youth is paramount, yet this legislation could unintentionally create greater risks and access for children, and at the same time cause severe harm to Oregon's revenue and regulated adult-use cannabis market.

While SB 1548A aims to enhance public safety, the cascading consequences could harm Oregon's cannabis industry, eliminate jobs, reduce tax revenue, and push consumers toward unsafe, unregulated markets. I respectfully urge you to vote NO on SB 1548A to protect both public safety and the economic well-being of our communities.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Briana Ortega

Did You Know?

1. Existing Safeguards Are Effective

Oregon enforces strict regulations requiring child-resistant packaging for all cannabis products. Mandating individual wrapping for each edible complicates these protections and creates a false sense of security. The layering of multiple levels of packaging to enhance safety—fails in practice. Consumers often remove these layers for convenience, which increases accessibility for children rather than reducing it.

2. Higher Risk of Accidental Ingestion

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, once edibles are removed from their outer packaging, individually wrapped pieces are more likely to be left scattered in homes, cars, backpacks, and purses. This creates multiple access points for children and heightens the risk of accidental ingestion.

3. Severe Economic Impact on Small Businesses

Many small licensed OLCC operators in Oregon are already struggling under heavy regulation. SB 1548A would impose additional, costly packaging requirements that many small businesses simply cannot afford. Many lack the physical space or financial resources to adapt, putting livelihoods and economic stability at risk. These changes could force numerous operators to close permanently, devastating local economies.

4. Job Losses and Reduced Tax Revenue

The closure of small cannabis businesses would lead to significant job losses and a reduction in state tax revenue. Estimates suggest the products that are targeted with this bill represent approximately 14-15% of the OLCC market. This means Oregon could lose approximately \$5 million in Measure 110 funding, worsening the program's financial challenges.

5. Encouragement of Unregulated Markets

Increased production costs and retail prices could drive consumers toward unregulated markets, where products lack safety controls, accurate labeling, and child-resistant packaging. This shift would undermine public safety and the integrity of Oregon's regulated system.

6. Better, More Effective Solutions Exist

Instead of restrictive packaging mandates, Oregon should invest in consumer education and safe storage campaigns. Other states, such as New Mexico, have successfully partnered with poison control agencies to promote responsible storage and awareness, achieving better outcomes without harming small businesses.