

DATE: February 23, 2026

RE: Support SB 1548

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

My name is Deborah Dedrickson, and I serve as the Senior Advisor for Substance Use Prevention Services at Lines for Life. Our organization operates the state's 24/7 Alcohol and Drug Helpline and YouthLine, a peer-to-peer crisis line.

I am writing today to urge your support for **SB 1548**. This bill closes a dangerous loophole regarding high-potency products, is evidence-based, and aligns Oregon with proven safety standards.

The data regarding the unintended consequences of the current unregulated landscape is startling:

- **Children aged 5 and under** made up one-third of cannabis-related cases reported to the Oregon Poison Center in 2023.
- Youth and young adults (ages 15–24) are at **heightened risk for Cannabis Use Disorder** due to the high plasticity of the developing brain and the wide availability of ultra-potent products.
- High-potency THC products significantly increase the risk of developing psychosis and schizophrenia in youth, with daily users being **up to five times more likely** to experience a psychotic disorder.

• **Addiction is a pediatric-onset disease.** While this bill protects toddlers from accidental poisoning, it is equally focused on our adolescents. Young people's developing brains are uniquely vulnerable to high-potency THC, and candy-like edibles are frequently the entry point for high-school-age children. To this committee's specific mission, I would argue that protecting our families is not in conflict with economic development—it is the foundation of it. A healthy, resilient future workforce depends on us closing these gaps now to prevent the long-term social and economic costs of addiction and mental health crises.

I urge you to support SB 1548. Thank you for your leadership and for your commitment to the health and safety of our youngest Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Deborah Dedrickson, MA, QMHP

Senior Advisor for Substance Use Prevention Services
Lines for Life