

Submitter: Jennifer McCall

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1548

My name is Dr. Jennifer McCall. I am a pediatrician practicing in Oregon and an assistant professor of pediatrics. I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1548 (A-Engrossed).

As a pediatrician, I regularly counsel families about poison prevention, safe storage of medications, and the risks of accidental ingestion. Since cannabis legalization, pediatric exposures to cannabinoid edibles have become a very real and preventable safety concern. Edible products are particularly risky because they often resemble candy or snack foods and are easy for young children to ingest accidentally.

SB 1548 takes practical, evidence-informed steps to reduce this risk.

Requiring that each cannabinoid edible be individually wrapped is a straightforward safety measure. Individual packaging reduces the likelihood that a child who gains access to a package will ingest multiple servings at once. It also supports clearer dose awareness for adult consumers. This is analogous to blister packaging used for other medications to limit unintended overconsumption.

Limiting individual edibles to 10 milligrams of adult-use cannabinoid further strengthens consumer safety. Clear, consistent potency standards make it easier for adults to understand dosing and reduce the risk of unintentional over-intoxication. Importantly, the bill preserves higher allowances for medical marijuana registry cardholders when appropriate, recognizing legitimate therapeutic needs.

This legislation does not prohibit adult use. Rather, it reflects a mature regulatory approach that balances legal access with public health responsibility. Just as we regulate alcohol labeling, child-resistant medication bottles, and nicotine packaging, it is appropriate to apply evidence-based guardrails to cannabis products — particularly products that are attractive and accessible to minors.

As physicians, we are often the ones treating the downstream consequences of inadequate safeguards. Pediatric cannabis exposures can result in significant sedation, respiratory compromise, emergency department visits, and hospital admissions. These are frightening events for families and costly to the health care system — and they are largely preventable.

SB 1548 represents a reasonable, targeted intervention designed to reduce

preventable harm while respecting Oregon's existing cannabis framework. It prioritizes child safety, supports informed adult consumption, and aligns with core public health principles.

I respectfully urge your support of SB 1548.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to protecting the health and safety of Oregon's children and families.

Sincerely,
Jennifer McCall, DO FAAP