

Support for Senate Bill 1548 – Enhancing Public Safety and Consumer Awareness in Oregon’s Cannabis Market

As a concerned citizen of Oregon, I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1548. This legislation introduces common-sense regulations that prioritize public health, protect our youth, and ensure that consumers are fully informed about the products they purchase. For too long policy has been driven by the dictates of industry rather than public health, and this bill is a step in the right direction.

I believe this bill is a vital step forward for our state for several key reasons:

1. Strengthening Youth Protections

SB 1548 takes decisive action to protect minors by requiring that cannabinoid edibles be individually packaged. By mandating that packaging be "tailored judiciously" to prevent youth appeal and prohibiting imagery or characters associated with minors, this bill addresses the serious risk of accidental ingestion and unlawful use by children.

2. Empowering Consumers with Health Information

The requirement for the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC) to implement comprehensive labeling and inserts is a significant win for transparency. Providing clear warnings about the delayed onset of edibles, potential mental health risks (including psychotic disorders and suicide risk), and the dangers of high-THC products allows Oregonians to make safer, more informed choices.

3. Local Control for Public Safety

I support the provision that allows local governments to establish buffer zones of more than 1,000 feet around cannabis operations. This grants our communities the flexibility to manage land use in a way that best serves the unique health and safety interests of their residents.

4. Ensuring Product Integrity

The prohibition on infusing usable marijuana with additional cannabinoids beyond what occurs naturally ensures that products remain consistent and prevents the distribution of "enhanced" items that may pose unpredictable risks to consumers.

Oregon has been a leader in the cannabis industry, and SB 1548 continues that leadership by evolving our regulations to match current scientific understanding and public safety needs. I urge you to support this measure, we really need to insert some common sense into these debates and stop allowing profits to triumph over the well-being of children and the larger community.

Thank you for your time and for your dedicated service to our state.

Sincerely,

Anne McClanan

SE Portland resident