

Submitter: Lee Grace

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1548

Subject: SB 1548 – Primary Prevention, Youth Health, and Informed Decision-Making Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lee Grace, and I am a community member from Oregon City in Clackamas County. The views I express here are my own and do not represent an official position of any organization. I am a young adult volunteer involved with Oregon City Together, and a member of the Oregon Coalition of Prevention Professionals. I am sharing this testimony in my personal capacity.

I strongly support SB 1548 because it strengthens common-sense safeguards that prioritize youth and community health. As cannabis availability has expanded, it is critical that Oregon ensure policies keep pace with what we know about brain development, prevention science, and the real-world impacts on young people and families. SB 1548 is a responsible step that helps reduce unintended harms, supports informed decision-making, and reinforces that prevention and public health must remain central as Oregon continues to regulate cannabis.

And as a person in recovery and supporter of harm reduction, I would like to stress the nuance of medical marijuana usage within these policy adjustments. Obviously, the health of children and good of prevention science does outweigh negative impacts on a small sect of adult users. But in times where mental and physical health care is even less accessible, and risk factors for substance use disorder are at all time high, I want to ensure I do my part to ensure chronically ill/disabled/disadvantaged people do not experience any added adversity in our attempts to help others. It is important any legislative legalese does not exclude medical marijuana users just on the basis of blanket accessibility issues. It is too easy for children to access marijuana, but the answer is not keeping it from those who need it. Strict regulation does not need to limit people who genuinely and medically benefit from it.

Thank you for considering the public health and prevention implications of SB 1548 and for your attention to the well-being of Oregon's children, youth, and families.