



February 9, 2026

Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Senators Blouin, Linthicum, and Patterson of the Senate Interim Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health,

We are the Board of the Oregon Society of Addiction Medicine (ORSAM), the state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM). ASAM has more than eight thousand members who are physicians, nurse practitioners, physician associates, and other specialists. We are writing to support SB 1548 (2026) and we hope you will vote to pass it.

SB 1548 would require that retailers sell edible cannabis products that are packaged in single units that are individually wrapped. The potency per unit of product would be limited to 10 mg of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

The potency of cannabis products has risen substantially over time. Flower products may contain about 20% THC now, compared with 4% in the 1970s. And concentrates may contain 60-90% THC.<sup>1,5</sup>

Based on the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), in 2022-2023, about 24% of adults used cannabis in the past month.<sup>2</sup> This means that cannabis is likely to be found in many homes in Oregon.

Young children explore their environments through a behavior called hand-mouth sampling. Research studies show that babies and toddlers touch their mouths and put objects in their mouths about seven to twenty-eight times per hour.<sup>3</sup> This kind of behavior often continues up to the age of 36 months.

Given that cannabis is highly potent now, and that many Oregonians use it, it makes sense that this natural hand-mouth behavior puts young children and infants at risk of cannabis toxicity. Indeed, Oregon has seen an increase in cannabis toxicity cases in children since the cannabis packaging changed in April 2022 and it was possible for children to accidentally ingest twice as much THC as in previous years.<sup>4</sup> The children had moderate or

severe negative health effects about half of the time. In nearby Washington state, the rate of such events declined.

We think that SB 1548 is a reasonable and important bill that will protect children from accidental ingestion while still respecting the rights of Oregonian adults to use cannabis if they so choose. The autonomy of our patients and members of the public is very important to us. Fortunately, their rights are not in conflict with safer packaging for public health.

We hope that you will join us in supporting SB 1548. Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

The Oregon Society of Addiction Medicine Board

Lisa Kiperstzok, MD, President

Daniel Hoover, MD, Vice President

MaryAnne Murray, DNP, Treasurer

Ray Simon, MD, Secretary

And Moxie Loeffler, DO, MPH, DFASAM, Public Policy Chair

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