

Written Testimony in Support of Single-Use Packaging for High-THC Cannabis Edibles

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of this bill requiring single-use packaging for high-THC cannabis edibles.

I support this legislation as a targeted, prevention-focused public health measure that aligns with the Committee's responsibility to protect young children, support healthy brain development, and reduce avoidable behavioral health harms.

High-THC cannabis edibles present a distinct risk due to their delayed onset of effects, which may take 30 minutes to two hours to fully appear. This delay is a well-documented contributor to accidental overconsumption, particularly among adults who are new to cannabis or returning after extended periods of non-use. Unintended high-dose consumption can result in acute anxiety, panic, confusion, nausea, and elevated heart rate, and is a frequent driver of cannabis-related emergency department visits.

From an early childhood perspective, edible cannabis products pose additional concern. These products are often indistinguishable from non-cannabis foods such as candy or baked goods. While child-resistant packaging is necessary, it does not fully mitigate risk. Single-use packaging provides an additional, critical safeguard by limiting the total amount of THC accessible in the event of accidental ingestion. Dose reduction is a core injury-prevention strategy and is especially important for young children, whose developing brains are more vulnerable to the effects of high-THC exposure.

Single-use packaging also supports safer adult use behaviors that reduce household-level risk. Multi-serving edible packages are more likely to be opened, partially consumed, and stored in ways that increase the likelihood of unintended access by children. Single-use products promote clearer dosing, intentional consumption, and safer storage or disposal practices.

This policy does not restrict legal adult access to cannabis products. Rather, it establishes a reasonable, evidence-informed standard that balances adult choice with child safety and public health considerations. Similar to existing approaches used for medications, alcohol labeling, and nicotine products, single-use packaging represents a proportionate response to a known risk.

For the Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health, this bill offers a practical and effective tool to reduce preventable harm, protect children during critical stages of development, and support Oregon's broader behavioral health and prevention goals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Robb Hutson

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Organizer, National Public Health – Cannabis Conference (8 years; longest-running conference of its kind in the United States)

Provider of youth cannabis prevention training and technical assistance to multiple states and communities across the U.S.