

Submitter: Dana M

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1548

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dana and I am a Portland resident writing in support of SB 1548.

I am the mother of a young adult who began using THC edibles as a young teenager. He still uses THC daily. It is one of the biggest obstacles in his life. I have watched high-potency edibles take hold of my child and not let go.

The current system makes it far too easy for young people to access and consume dangerous amounts of THC. A single 100mg cookie or brownie that is supposedly meant to be divided into 10 servings is, in practice, consumed in one sitting — especially by a kid who doesn't know any better. These products are incredibly potent, and they get young people dependent on THC quickly.

The research is clear. Studies published in JAMA Psychiatry and the Annals of Internal Medicine have found that high-potency THC is linked to increased risk of cannabis use disorder, depression, anxiety, psychosis, and suicidal thoughts — particularly in adolescents, whose brains are still developing. Adolescents generally lack the ability to self-regulate dosage with high-potency products, meaning they are being exposed to far more THC than previous generations ever were.