

## **SB1548 Testimony**

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

February 8, 2026

Good afternoon, Members of the Committee.

For the record, my name is Mary Stevens-Krogh, and I serve as the District Coordinator of Substance Use Prevention and Supports for Portland Public Schools, Oregon's largest school district.

I am here today to testify in strong support of SB 1548—critical legislation that will help protect children and adolescents and reduce cannabis misuse and addiction in our state.

Portland Public Schools, like many districts across the state, has been deeply and negatively impacted by youth cannabis misuse. We have seen students experience severe psychiatric episodes related to cannabis use—some so serious that they required hospitalization for weeks at a time. Cannabis is by far the substance most frequently associated with discipline violations in our district, and it is the substance most often involved when we must seek intensive outpatient or residential treatment for youth.

SB 1548 takes important steps to reduce the likelihood that young people can easily access, misuse, and overdose on high-potency cannabis products. Cannabis misuse among youth is associated with depression, anxiety, suicidality, and psychosis—effects that can be long-lasting or lifelong. In our schools, we also see the academic consequences: increased absenteeism, declining grades, credit deficiency, and, too often, students disengaging entirely and dropping out. Cannabis misuse can also significantly reduce motivation and lead students to withdraw from extracurricular activities, friendships, and healthy relationships.

This legislation addresses a long-standing and dangerous reality in Oregon: high-dosage THC products are far too accessible to children and adolescents. Despite marketing that often portrays cannabis as harmless—or even beneficial—the scientific evidence is clear that cannabis is harmful and addictive for young people. At Portland Public Schools, we are committed to helping our students flourish both academically and emotionally. SB 1548 supports that mission.

Establishing state law that prioritizes youth safety is a critical step toward addressing the irresponsible distribution and marketing of these products and protecting students across Oregon. Thank you for your time, and I urge you to support SB 1548.