

RE: Support of SB 1548

Dear Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Anderson, and members of the Committee:

My name is Allison Simpson and I am pediatrician caring for hospitalized children, member of the Oregon Pediatric Society Advocacy Committee, and mother.

Please vote yes on Senate Bill 1548, the Safer Marijuana Act, to limit cannabis product packaging to single-serving (10mg THC) units so they are individually wrapped.

Current cannabis packaging allows for a container to hold 100mg of THC, but a single 100mg edible marijuana product (cookie, brownie, or gummy) can be packaged as a single unit, despite the intent of the product being divided by the consumer into 10 separate 10mg servings. It allows individual users to overconsume as they are often unaware of the single serving amount. This packaging also makes it tempting for small children to be exposed to THC in toxic amounts, as they think it is a sweet treat. Not only are small children affected, but also older children with developmental differences such as Autism Spectrum Disorder. Through my work as a pediatric hospitalist, I personally care for children who ingest large amounts of THC and require hospitalization for monitoring of toxic effects.

SB 1548 would ensure packaging is limited to an individually wrapped single-serving (10mg THC), thereby making it harder for small children to be poisoned by a large single dose. It will also support older youth (and adults) by slowing down consumption of these products, by helping them be aware of how much they are consuming. By greatly reducing the ability of the entire 100mg to be consumed at once, these products will be less addictive and cause fewer adverse mental health issues (e.g., depression, anxiety, thoughts of suicide and psychosis), which have been linked with adolescents using high-potency THC and are related to cannabis use disorder.

By voting yes on SB 1548, you can help protect Oregon's toddlers and older children with developmental differences from unintentional cannabis poisoning and to prevent overuse of products containing THC.

Thank you,

Dr. Allison Simpson, DO, FAAP
Pediatric Hospitalist