

LISA REYNOLDS, MD
STATE SENATOR
District 17



OREGON STATE SENATE

SB 1548 - Safer Marijuana Act

Public Hearing, 2/10/26

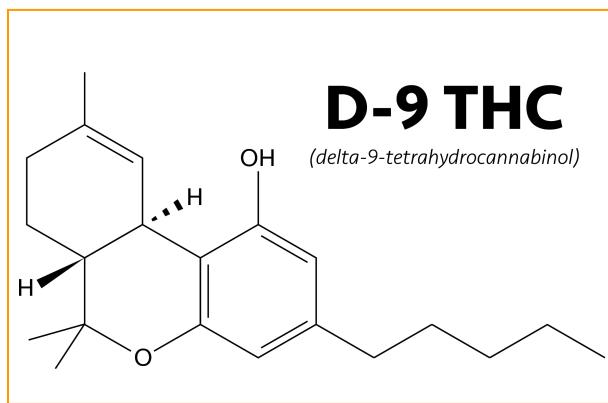
Testimony in Support

Senator Lisa Reynolds

Introduction

In 2026, Team Reynolds has introduced an omnibus marijuana bill aimed at protecting **young Oregonians (TODDLER - 21 years old)** from the harmful effects of **THC**, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana and in hemp.

THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) is the primary psychoactive compound in the cannabis plant, responsible for the feeling of being "high". It works by activating cannabinoid receptors in the brain and body, affecting mood, perception, and memory. While THC is linked to potential therapeutic uses, such as pain relief and appetite stimulation, it can also cause side effects like paranoia, anxiety, and dry mouth, with higher doses increasing their severity.



THERE are many things we considered in this bill. Indeed the original bill was much more extensive than what we are proposing in our -1 amendment, which is a subset of the introduced bill. We left out warning label which describe the link between cannabis use disorder and lifelong severe mental illness, we left out potency limits on pre-rolls, or joints, we left out permission to locally control buffer zones around marijuana businesses.

What we decided NOT to leave out are measure that protect kids right here, right now. And they can't wait.

Regulating Edibles which are chocolate bars, cookies, and gummies. What could go wrong?

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- C: Risk of THC toxicity from accidental ingestion by **toddlers/children** (gummies, cookies, etc)
 - Individually wrapped doses
 - One gummy - one serving size (10 mg THC)
- D: Risk of Cannabis Use Disorder for **youth <21 years old**, including long-term risk of psychosis; the risk increases with higher dosing (and then regular use)
 - Individually wrapped doses
 - One gummy - one serving size (10 mg THC)

I am including in committee meeting materials TWO articles from the NYTimes - an editorial from Mon 2/9/26 titled ***It's Time for America to Admit That It Has a Marijuana Problem*** calling for better regulation of marijuana; and a piece from 2025 ***Cannabis Poisonings Are Rising, Mostly Among Kids (highlights below)*** about the risk of cannabis gummies and toddler poisoning, featuring Dr Hendrickson, who is joining us today to testify in support of this bill.

C: Risk of THC toxicity from accidental ingestion by toddlers/children - Gummies, cookies, brownies, etc

NYTimes article, Aug 2025

Problem: the number of cannabis-related incidents reported to poison control centers has sharply increased: from about 930 cases in 2009 to more than 22,000 last year, data from America's Poison Centers shows.,, 75% of these poisonings involve children/teens.

(includes quote by "Dr. Robert Hendrickson, an emergency physician and professor at Oregon Health & Science University, said that in recent years he has treated more patients for cannabis poisoning...Dr. Hendrickson served on a committee about a decade ago that helped set Oregon's limit to 50 milligrams per package. He said it was meant to protect children: Even if a child managed to eat the whole package, the effects were less likely to be life-threatening. In 2022, the limit in Oregon doubled. For a toddler, Dr. Hendrickson said, that could mean 'the difference between being really sleepy and spending the night in the E.R. — and being on a ventilator.'")

[also Elderly: A study published last year found that after Canada legalized the sale of cannabis, the number of emergency room visits among people ages 65 and older shot up.]

Individually wrapped servings. Dilley article

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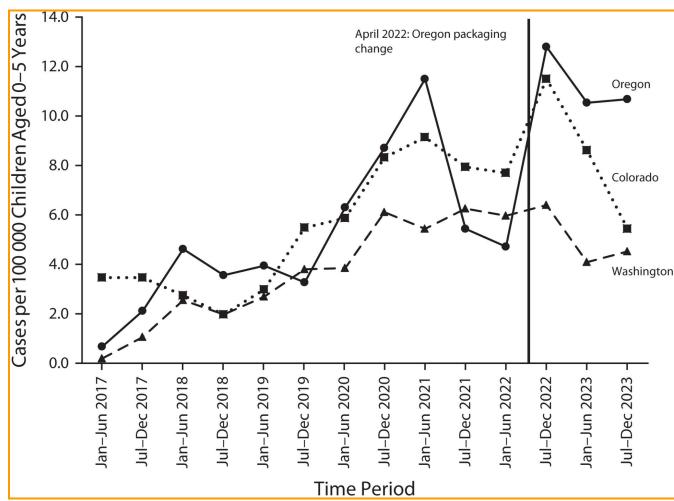


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- WA instituted individually wrapped servings (10 mg THC), with less of an increase in accidental ingestions by kids 0-5 y/o;
- Oregon packaging change (2022) was from 50 mg max to 100 mg max and increase in accidental ingestions.

● CURRENT LAW OLCC

- 2022: Increased Edible Potency: The maximum THC limit for recreational edibles was doubled from 50 mg to 100 mg per package.
- 2022 from 5 to 10 mg: Serving Size Restrictions: While the total package limit increased, individual servings in edibles must still contain a maximum of 10 mg THC.
- Scoring Requirement: Edibles containing *more than 55 mg THC* per package must be "scored" or clearly marked to indicate single-serving portions.
- Until April 1, 2022, retailers may not sell edibles that exceed 5 mg THC per serving or 50 mg THC per container.
 - [2021 bill](#) SB 408 passed unanimously in house in May, went into effect in 2022.



D: Risk of Cannabis Use Disorder for **youth <21 years old** including long term risk of psychosis

- Problem: Kids are being hurt by cannabis ([Rettew pc](#) in Psychology Today)
 - Cannabis Use Disorder
 - Psychosis/Schizophrenia (long term)
 - Gateway drug ([article](#))

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- Oregon has 4th highest rates of youth cannabis use in the country • Past month 7.76% among ages 12-17 | Actual vs perceived risk (Rettew [slides](#) SECBH 5/25)
- Higher potency leads to more cannabis use disorder, and harms to youth ([need hard data on this, here is one article](#))
 - [potency caps](#) per individual piece (one gummy: 10 mg), and maximum mg of THC per container ([CA report](#), Dr Silver) - more details below;
 - [Dilley article](#)

I urge an AYE vote on SB 1548.

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