



Oregon Pediatric Society

A Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Incorporated in Oregon

DATE: March 2, 2025
TO: Senator Lisa Reynolds, MD – Chair; Senator Dick Anderson - Vice-Chair;
Members of the Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
FROM: Brett Boyer, MD
SUBJECT: Support for SB 702 – Prevent Kids Getting Hooked on Flavored Tobacco

My name is Brett Boyer, MD, and I am a pediatrician in Portland, and a member of the Oregon Pediatric Society, the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I am writing this testimony in support of SB 702, a ban on the sales of flavored tobacco and other related tobacco products, because of the positive effect this intervention will have on the youth of Oregon.

I see adolescent and young adult patients every day, and I continue to be astounded by the number of patients under the age of 18 who regularly vape or use other tobacco products. Flavors like cotton candy, mango, or chocolate, are intentionally marketed toward a younger audience to have them become lifelong consumers of these products. These flavors encourage first-time use by teenagers and are also associated with more positive early-use experiences, leading to increases of use in the subsequent months and then for the rest of their lives. If people do not start smoking by the age of 25, they are unlikely to smoke at all in their lives. Therefore, these flavored products are an intentional push to get consumers to start using tobacco before they are too old to get hooked and become long-term users.

Flavored tobacco products are putting the next generation of our state at risk for chronic lung disease and other acute and chronic health conditions. As a physician, I have seen firsthand the detrimental effects tobacco products have on short- and long-term health, particularly on lung health, oral hygiene, mental health, and academic success.

This bill is not a novel concept and indeed, several states already have flavored tobacco restrictions or sales bans in place. California, Utah, and New York have already seen the positive impacts of similar legislation passed on to their constituents, including decreased rates of smoking in their youth and consequently fewer health complications reported related to less use of tobacco products.

SB702 would put necessary restrictions in place to protect those most vulnerable to these products, Oregon's youth. It has the potential to impact the immediate health concerns related to tobacco product use but can also drastically change the trajectory of lifespan health for so many Oregonians. As a pediatrician, I constantly think about the future well-being of my patients, and I hope you take them into account when considering this bill. OPS and I urge you to vote yes on SB702. Thank you for your consideration.