

3/5/2025

Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health  
Oregon State Senate  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Oregon School Nurses Association Support for Senate Bill 702

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

The Oregon School Nurses Association advocates for the health and success of all children through the support of school nurses and all that they do to maintain a healthy environment for our children. As school health care providers throughout the state, our members regularly see the negative, and deadly, impacts of tobacco and nicotine products.

When working with teens, it is apparent that e-cigarettes are the most popular tobacco product, with 10% of 11th graders using them in the past month.<sup>1</sup> These e-cigarettes are almost exclusively flavored, clearly targeting kids with dessert flavors like strawberry jelly donut, cotton candy, and blueberry cookie. These flavors hook young users and lead to a lifetime of addiction: 95% of adults who smoke report they started smoking before age 21 and 88% of youth e-cigarette users use flavored products.<sup>23</sup>

Regular use of nicotine in youth can hurt brain development, and impact attention, mood, and impulse control. This can not only cause long-term impacts on the health of youth but proves disruptive in classrooms, with 9 in 10 educators agreeing that vaping is disruptive to the learning environment.<sup>4</sup>

Senate Bill 702 is a necessary step to combat the danger that is nicotine addiction in Oregon. At a time when schools are already trying to recover from the setbacks of the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to take serious action to support the health and well-being of our kids. We strongly support SB 702 to end the sale of flavored tobacco in Oregon and urge your yes vote.

Thank you,  
Wendy Niskanen, MEd, RN  
School Nurse  
Oregon School Nurses' Association

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<sup>1</sup> Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Student Health Survey.

<sup>2</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2014

<sup>3</sup> Results from the 2024 Annual National Youth Tobacco Survey | FDA

<sup>4</sup> 2023 Verkada Teen Vaping Study