



March 5, 2025

Senator Lisa Reynolds, Chair  
Senator Dick Anderson, Vice-Chair  
Oregon Legislative Assembly  
Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97302

**Re: Support for Senate Bill 702, Relating to a Ban on Flavored Tobacco and Nicotine**

Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

I am Shawn Akavan, M.D., and I serve as the chief medical officer for PacificSource, a not-for-profit, local health plan and coordinated care organization. For over 90 years, we have served Oregonians from our headquarters in Springfield. We cover Oregonians receiving access to health care through commercial health plans, the Oregon Health Plan, and Medicare Advantage. PacificSource Community Solutions is the contracted coordinated care organization (CCO) in Central Oregon, the Columbia River Gorge, Marion & Polk Counties, and Lane County. Our mission is to provide better health, better care, and better value to the people and communities we serve.

I write to express PacificSource's support for Senate Bill 702, a bill that prohibits the sale of flavored tobacco products flavored nicotine products in Oregon for the protection of our children and communities. PacificSource has long supported measures to regulate the sale of tobacco products. PacificSource supported the passage of Measure 108 in 2020, which assessed a tax on various forms of tobacco to deter future use and to fund health care.

It is undeniable that health care experiences significant costs related to the treatment of conditions associated with tobacco use. It is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Oregon, with 5,500 Oregonians dying because of smoking each year, and nearly all tobacco use begins during youth and young adulthood. We do not wish to see the children of our communities experiencing early and debilitating setbacks in their health due to this preventable problem.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to adopt Senate Bill 702. For questions or follow-up items, please contact Richard Blackwell, Director, Oregon Government Relations at (541) 284-7736 or [richard.blackwell@pacificsource.com](mailto:richard.blackwell@pacificsource.com).

Sincerely,

/s

Shawn Akavan, M.D.  
Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, PacificSource