



# Oregon Pediatric Society

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

DATE: March 6, 2025  
TO: Senator Lisa Reynolds, MD – Chair; Senator Dick Anderson - Vice-Chair;  
Members of the Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health  
FROM: Jennifer McCall, DO  
SUBJECT: Support for SB 702 – Prevent Kids Getting Hooked on Flavored Tobacco

My name is Jennifer McCall, DO, FAAP, and I am Vice President of the Oregon Pediatric Society, the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. As a pediatrician practicing in Portland, OR, I strongly urge you to support Senate Bill 702, which seeks to prohibit the sale of all flavored nicotine products. This legislation is a crucial step in protecting the health and well-being of Oregon's children and adolescents.

Flavored tobacco products—including menthol cigarettes, flavored e-cigarettes, and nicotine pouches like Zyn—are intentionally designed to appeal to young people. By masking the harsh taste of nicotine with sweet, minty, or fruity flavors, these products make initiation easier and addiction more likely. Tobacco companies have long relied on these predatory tactics to target youth, creating a new generation of lifelong customers at the expense of their health.

A dangerous misconception is that nicotine products without tobacco leaf components, such as Zyn pouches or e-cigarettes, are somehow safer alternatives to cigarettes. This is simply untrue. These products often contain **higher concentrations of nicotine**, making them **more addictive** and even harder to quit. Zyn pouches contain harmful chemicals like **ammonia, chromium, formaldehyde, nickel, and nicotine salts**, while e-cigarettes and vaping products release **acetaldehyde, acrolein, and formaldehyde**—toxic aldehydes known to cause **lung and cardiovascular disease**. Acrolein, a chemical commonly used as a herbicide, has no place in products marketed to our youth.

Exposure to these chemicals has led to **vaping-associated/e-cigarette lung injury (VAPE/EVALI)**—a severe, life-threatening illness first recognized in 2019. Pediatric ICUs right here in Oregon have admitted patients suffering from this entirely preventable condition. Beyond acute lung injury, nicotine itself poses significant long-term risks, including **heart disease, stroke, and cancer**. For developing adolescent brains, nicotine can impair **cognitive function, memory, and emotional regulation**—leaving lasting damage on the very population these products are designed to hook.

The sole beneficiaries of flavored nicotine sales are the companies profiting from addiction. Meanwhile, our children, families, and health care systems bear the burden of increased illness, higher health care costs, and preventable suffering.



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Other states that have implemented restrictions on flavored nicotine products have seen **dramatic declines in youth e-cigarette use** and **reductions in combustible cigarette smoking**. By passing SB 702, Oregon can follow these evidence-based public health measures and take a meaningful stand to protect our youth.

I urge you to prioritize the health of Oregon's children over the profits of the tobacco industry. Please vote in favor of SB 702 to protect our youth and promote a healthier future.

Thank you for your time and dedication to safeguarding Oregon's young people.