



# 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: James Unger, MD, MPH  
SUBJECT: Support SB Bill 702 – End the Sales of Flavored Tobacco Products

I am Dr. Jimmy Unger, a Pediatrician with 37 years of practice experience, including 24 years in Oregon (Eugene and Portland). I strongly urge you to support Senate Bill 702, which seeks to prohibit the sale of all flavored tobacco products. This legislation is a critical step in protecting the health and well-being of Oregon's children and adolescents.

Flavored tobacco and nicotine products, including menthol cigarettes, flavored e-cigarettes, and the increasingly popular Zyn nicotine pouches, are deliberately marketed to young people, enticing them into nicotine addiction. As a Pediatrician, I have seen firsthand the devastating impact of early tobacco use. Somewhat uncomfortably, I was compelled to learn how to treat nicotine-addicted young teens (and “tweeners”) with nicotine replacement therapy as they struggled to end their addiction.

The image of an addicted child, falling prey to the successful marketing campaign of “Big Tobacco”, suffering nicotine withdrawal symptoms, is both tragic and, with common sense legislation, entirely preventable.

Restrictions on the sale of flavored tobacco have been enacted elsewhere resulting in declines of both e- and combustible cigarette use. By passing SB 702, Oregon can take a meaningful stand against youth tobacco use and safeguard public (and children's) health. I urge you to prioritize the well-being of our children over the interests of the tobacco industry and vote in favor of this bill.

Thank you for your time and commitment to protecting Oregon's youth.