

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 702A

Submitted by: Dr. James A. Bishara, MD, MBA, FAAP  
Pediatric Cardiologist, Salem, Oregon

Chair Meek, Vice Chair McLane, and Members of the Committee,

I am strongly supporting Senate Bill 702A on behalf of the Oregon Pediatric Society, the Oregon Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Our members care for children and adolescents daily, and we have seen firsthand how public policy can safeguard or jeopardize the health of our youngest and most vulnerable residents.

SB 702A represents a critical step forward in protecting Oregon's youth from the harmful and increasingly aggressive tactics of the tobacco and nicotine industries. Tobacco-related illnesses represent one of the largest groups of preventable causes of diseases in America. These diseases represent a significant burden on the healthcare system and economy by causing over 8,000 premature deaths, and \$5.7 billion in medical costs and decreased productivity, according to the OHA.

The provisions in SB 702A to strengthen regulation of nicotine delivery products, restrict youth access, and enhance public health oversight are urgently needed. We cannot allow another generation of Oregonians to be hooked on nicotine, an addiction that only leads to preventable disease, decreased economic activity through reduced productivity, and high healthcare costs.

I urge you to pass Senate Bill 702A and stand with healthcare professionals, parents, and educators who are working tirelessly to keep kids safe from the harms of nicotine addiction. Our children deserve to grow up free from the grip of these harmful substances. Thank you for your leadership and for considering this important legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

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