

Submitter:

Peter Reed

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1571

11 February 2026

Testimony in support of SB 1571

To the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I support SB 1571 to protect Oregon youth from tobacco and nicotine addiction.

I am a community pediatrician practicing in a Portland-area clinic serving children and adolescents. I regularly see teens who have become addicted to nicotine by using synthetic nicotine pouches. They seem to be particularly popular among certain athlete groups, including baseball and hockey players.

Most teens I talk to about tobacco use understand instinctively that cigarettes and vapes are harmful to their health, but they have a blind spot for the harmful effects of synthetic nicotine pouches. They are unaware that the nicotine is raising their blood pressure. They don't connect their feelings of anxiety with nicotine withdrawal. They don't foresee their current addiction to nicotine becoming a life-long addiction.

Making the problem worse is teens' easy access to synthetic nicotine pouches. Oregon has made strides in recent years in limiting youth access to tobacco with the Tobacco 21 law, retail licensing, and increased taxes on tobacco products. Synthetic nicotine pouches have evaded these regulations, and now Big Nicotine is cashing in at the expense of our youth.

SB 1571 closes the synthetic nicotine loophole, finally regulating these products for what they are: addictive and dangerous. Enacting SB 1571 is an easy and important win for Oregon's youth. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Peter Reed, MD, MPH, FAAP

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