



Legacy Health

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February 11, 2026

Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Oregon State Senate  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Legacy Health Supports SB 1571

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Committee:

Legacy Health is a nonprofit health care provider serving Oregon and Southwest Washington with an integrated network of care providers in over 80 primary care, urgent care, and specialty care clinics, and six community-based and nationally recognized hospitals. Our mission is good health for our people, our patients, our communities, and our world. Above all, we will do the right thing.

Legacy Health supports SB 1571, which would advance common sense regulation of nicotine pouches in Oregon and strengthen our state's ability to protect youth and reduce nicotine addiction.

Nicotine pouches are flavored, easy to conceal, and heavily promoted on social media — features that drove youth e-cigarette use to epidemic levels. These products deliver high doses of nicotine that can harm the developing brain, impacting memory, attention, and learning. Sold in kid-appealing flavors like berry, mint, and citrus by all major tobacco companies, these new products are rapidly increasing in popularity and pose a serious threat to youth. Between January 2023 and August 2025, national monthly sales of nicotine pouches increased by 250.8%,<sup>1</sup> and they are the only tobacco product category to see an increase in youth use in recent years.<sup>2</sup>

Oregon currently has no state law restricting the sale of nicotine products, which means these products can legally be sold to kids. Unlike cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, and chewing tobacco, nicotine pouches are not subject to comparable safety measures and

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<sup>1</sup> CDC Foundation, "Monitoring Sales: Nicotine Pouch Trends," Published October 2025.

<sup>2</sup> Park-Lee, E, et al., "E-Cigarette and Nicotine Pouch Use Among Middle and High School Students — United States, 2024," Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) 73(35):774-778, September 5, 2024.

regulations. As a result, they can be sold anywhere without a state license, purchased online, and obtained by individuals of any age.

Just like other tobacco products, nicotine pouches must be properly regulated. Oregon must protect kids and close this loophole. By voting yes on SB 1571, you can help protect Oregon kids from a lifetime of poor health and nicotine addiction.

Thank you,

*Melinda Muller, MD*

Melinda Muller, MD, FACP  
Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer