

Tuesday February 10, 2026

Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Pass SB 1571 and Protect Oregon's Kids

Dear Chair and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Elizabeth Tomczyk and I am a General Dentist and an Assistant Professor OHSU School of Dentistry General Practice Residency Program.

Please support common sense regulation of nicotine pouches in Oregon.

I have seen the dangers of tobacco use, both in its conventional form and other newer nicotine delivery mechanisms such e-cigarettes in my work. As a dentist, I can tell you that tobacco use has devastating effects on oral health. The effects may not always be immediate, but over time, tobacco use causes irreversible damage. Big Tobacco is onto its next trick: nicotine pouches. Nicotine pouches are flavored and easy to conceal—two features that drove youth e-cigarette use to crisis levels.

Right now, Oregon doesn't have a state law that restricts the sale of these products—even to kids. The rules around nicotine pouches don't match the safety measures and regulations we have around cigarettes, e-cigarettes and vape products, cigars & chewing tobacco. In Oregon, nicotine pouches can be sold anywhere without a state license and can be purchased online; there is no age restriction required under Oregon law.

Nicotine pouches come in a variety of flavors including berry, mint and citrus, and are sold by all major tobacco companies. Flavored products make it easier for our youth to not understand or recognize these long-term consequences to their health. In dentistry, we use flavored products – in toothpaste and fluoride – to convince kids to put stuff in their mouth they wouldn't otherwise. That's the same approach the tobacco industry is using with flavored products now – except with lifelong negative impacts. Total monthly nicotine pouch sales increased by 250.8% nationally between January 2023 and August 2025.¹

Nicotine pouches must be properly regulated just like other smokeless tobacco products, cigarettes, e-cigarettes and vapes, and cigars. It's time for Oregon to protect kids and close the loophole that leaves nicotine pouches unregulated.

By voting yes on SB 1571, you can help protect Oregon kids from Big Tobacco and nicotine addiction.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Tomczyk, DMD
Assistant Professor OHSU School of Dentistry
Oregon Dental Association member

¹ CDC Foundation, "Monitoring Sales: Nicotine Pouch Trends" Published October 2025