

February 3, 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 Committee,

My name is Lakshmi Sahasra Vutukuri, and I am a high school student in Oregon. I am writing to urge you to support SB 1571 and enact common-sense regulation of nicotine pouches to protect young people.

In my school and among my peers, we have already seen the damage caused by flavored tobacco and vaping products. Nicotine pouches follow the same troubling pattern: they are flavored, discreet, and easy to hide from adults. These exact characteristics helped drive the youth vaping epidemic, and now the tobacco industry is using them again, this time with nicotine pouches.

What is especially concerning is that, unlike other tobacco and nicotine products, nicotine pouches are not currently regulated under Oregon state law. They can be sold without a state license, purchased online, and are not explicitly restricted by age at the state level. This lack of oversight creates a dangerous loophole that puts kids at risk.

Nicotine pouches come in flavors like berry, mint, and citrus and are marketed by major tobacco companies. These products are clearly designed to appeal to young people, not to help adults quit smoking. Nationally, monthly nicotine pouch sales increased by more than 250% between January 2023 and August 2025, underscoring how quickly these products are spreading.

As a student, I see how the normalization of nicotine use affects school environments, student health, and academic focus. Allowing another unregulated nicotine product into youth spaces undermines years of progress in tobacco prevention. As a student, I see how the normalization of nicotine use affects school environments, student health, and academic focus. Schools in my district have already struggled with youth vaping. As an older sister to a younger brother who will soon enter his teenage years, it is deeply concerning to know that the environments he may be exposed to are ones where nicotine products are easily accessible and widely normalized.

Nicotine pouches should be regulated just like cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vapes, and other smokeless tobacco products. SB 1571 closes this loophole and prioritizes the health and safety of Oregon's kids over tobacco industry profits.

I respectfully urge you to vote yes on SB 1571 and help protect young people from lifelong nicotine addiction.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lakshmi Sahasra Vutukuri