

February 26 2026

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

RE: Pass SB 1571A and Protect Oregon's Kids

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice Chairs Elmer and Pham, and members of the Committee:

My name is Joyce Kinyange. I am a Community Health Worker with the Coalition of Community Health Clinics in Portland, serving your constituents in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties. I am here today in strong support of Senate Bill 1571A.

As a public health professional—and as a mother—it is painful to know that commercial tobacco and nicotine use remains the number one cause of preventable death and disease in Oregon. Flavored tobacco and nicotine products make it easier to start using nicotine, and much harder to quit—especially for young people.

I see the impact of these products firsthand in the communities I serve. Their sweet, fruity, and minty flavors are clearly designed to appeal to youth, and aggressive advertising in our neighborhoods makes them seem like a normal part of youth culture.

This issue is also personal. My 12-year-old son once told me he had seen classmates vaping between classes and in hidden corners of the school. I worry about how long it will take before this behavior feels normal to him—or before curiosity turns into use. Families I work with share this same fear.

Now Big Tobacco is introducing nicotine pouches—flavored, easy-to-hide products that are largely unregulated in Oregon. They can be sold without a state license and lack the same protection we require for other tobacco products. These gaps make them especially easy for young people to access.

Senate Bill 1571A would close these loopholes and ensure nicotine pouches are regulated like other tobacco products.

Please vote YES on SB 1571A—because Oregon's children should NOT be the next generation of customers for the tobacco industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joyce Kinyange

CHW & OHP Assister | [Coalition of Community Health Clinics](#)

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