

# OUT OF KIDS' HANDS

## HOW H.2215 COULD SAVE OUR STATE MILLIONS

In Massachusetts, eating disorders cost the state

**\$1.4**  
BILLION

every year.<sup>1</sup>



### Youth are at risk...

Nearly 1 in 10 adolescents have used misleading & potentially harmful over-the-counter (OTC) diet pills in their lifetimes,<sup>2</sup> while 19% of young men & 7% of young women<sup>3</sup> report using muscle-building supplements.



### These products are dangerous...

Due to weak federal oversight, these products have repeatedly been found to be laced with dangerous ingredients, including illegal steroids, pharmaceutical drugs, excessive stimulants & heavy metals,<sup>4</sup> causing serious risks.<sup>5-11</sup> A rigorous review concluded “the use of natural supplements for weight loss are unlikely to contribute to meaningful weight loss and in some cases may contribute to harm”<sup>12</sup> - including liver & kidney failure.



### The FDA's hands are tied...

By law, the FDA can act only after reports of serious risk or injury,<sup>11</sup> warning the public that they are “unable to test and identify all products marketed as dietary supplements” & that “consumers should exercise caution before purchasing any product,”<sup>13-14</sup> but still no federal action has been taken!

## Expert economists say: H.2215 costs are minimal!<sup>15</sup>

- Health economists from The Heller School for Social Policy and Management from Brandeis University carried out a study to estimate the cost of implementing a state-level ban on sales of OTC diet pills and muscle-building supplements to minors by gathering data through key informant interviews and public data on state websites.
- The study considered minimum, best, and maximum values for state personnel time & salaries needed for all key provisions of the legislation.

### What they found...

The one-time implementation opportunity cost was estimated to be **only 0.0000823% of the FY25 state budget** - so *virtually nothing!*<sup>15,16</sup>

H.2215 would amount to a minimal one-time implementation cost of **virtually nothing!**



## Expert economists say: H.2215 would save MA millions!<sup>17</sup>

- Health economists from The Heller School for Social Policy and Management from Brandeis University modeled cost-effectiveness of the age-restriction policy vs. current law using two closed cohorts of males & females aged 0-17 years in MA. Separate distributional models were examined by race/ethnicity subgroups to assess for health equity.

### What they found...<sup>17</sup>

- H.2215 would prevent 57,034 eating disorder cases and more than 46,000 other additional adverse medical events over 30 years.
- H.2215 would yield **annual healthcare savings of \$14 million** and societal savings of **\$30 million**.
- Health equity analysis showed results were as beneficial or even more so for Latine & Black youth compared to their White counterparts.

H.2215 would annually yield **\$14 million** in healthcare & **\$30 million** in societal savings!

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