## OUT OF KIDS' HANDS

## HOW HOUSE BILL 0884 COULD SAVE OUR STATE MILLIONS

In Maryland, eating disorders cost the state

\$1.2 BILLION

every year.



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, "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," 13-14 but still no federal action has been taken!

### Expert economists say implementation cost of legislation like HB 0884 likely to be minimal! 15

- A study examining similar legislation from Massachusetts, a state with a nearly identical population size, aimed to evaluate the value of implementing a state-level ban on sale of over-the-counter diet pills and muscle-building supplements to minors.
- The study gathered data through key informant interviews and public data on state websites.
- The study considered minimum, best, and maximum values for state personnel time and 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! 15,16

This legislation is likely to amount to a minimal 1-time implementation cost of virtually nothing!

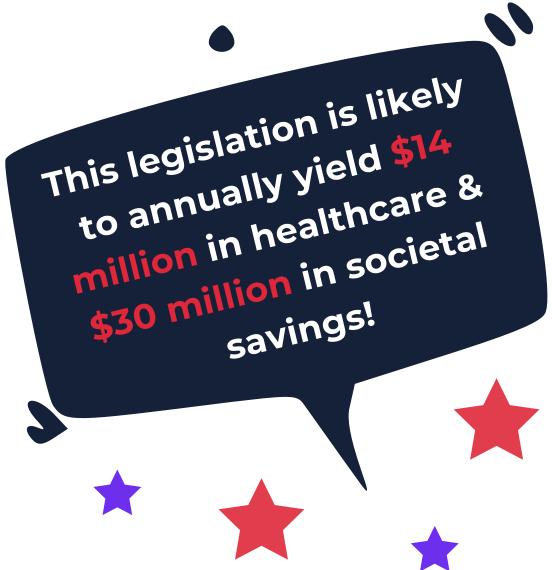


### Expert economists say legislation like HB 0884 could save state millions! 17

 Health economists from The Heller School for Social Policy and Management at 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 models were examined by race/ethnicity subgroups to assess for health equity.

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

- A second study estimated the cost-effectiveness of similar legislation in Massachusetts and likely effects on health equity.
  - They found similar legislation would prevent 57,034 eating disorder cases and more than 46,000 other adverse medical events over 30 years.
  - Also it 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.



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