

OUT OF KIDS' HANDS

HOW SENATE BILL 5622 COULD SAVE OUR STATE MILLIONS

In Washington, eating disorders cost the state

\$1.5
BILLION

every year.¹



Youth are at risk...

Nearly 1 in 10 adolescents have used misleading & potentially harmful over-the-counter (OTC) diet pills in their lifetimes,² while 19% of young men & 7% of young women³ 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,⁴ causing serious risks.⁵⁻¹¹ 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"¹² - including liver & kidney failure.



The FDA's hands are tied...

By law, the FDA can act only after reports of serious risk or injury,¹¹ 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 SB 5622 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 SB 5622 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...¹⁷

- 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.

This legislation is likely to annually yield \$14 million in healthcare & \$30 million in societal savings!

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