

# OUT OF KIDS' HANDS

## HOW A.1848/S.3987 COULD SAVE NEW JERSEY MILLIONS

In New Jersey, eating disorders cost the state

**\$1.8**  
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 report using muscle-building supplements.<sup>3</sup>



### 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 implementation cost of legislation like A.1848/S.3987 likely to be minimal!

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.

#### What they found...

The one-time implementation opportunity cost was estimated to be **only \$76,161** of the FY25 state budget.

This legislation is likely to amount to a minimal 1-time implementation cost of **\$76,161!**



### Expert economists say legislation like A.1848/S.3987 could save state millions!

- Modeled cost-effectiveness of the age-restriction policy vs. current law using two closed cohorts of males & females aged 0-17 years in New Jersey.

#### What they found...

- Their cost-effectiveness study estimated:
  - This legislation would prevent over **187,000 eating disorder cases** and more than **66,000 other adverse medical events** over 30 years.
  - Also it would yield annual healthcare savings of about **\$32 million** and annual societal savings of **\$56 million**.

This legislation is likely to annually yield **\$32 million** in healthcare & **\$56 million** in societal savings!

# REFERENCES

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