

OUT OF KIDS' HANDS

HOW AGE LIMITS ON DIET PILL SALES COULD SAVE ALASKA MILLIONS

In Alaska, eating disorders cost the state

\$145.8
MILLION

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 women report using muscle-building supplements.³



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 similar legislation likely to be minimal!¹⁵

- Health economists from The Heller School for Social Policy and Management from Brandeis University carried out a study, examining similar legislation from Massachusetts 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 0.0000823%** of the FY25 Massachusetts 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 this legislation could save state millions!¹⁷

- The same expert economists modeled cost-effectiveness of the age-restriction policy vs. current law using two closed cohorts of males & females aged 0-17 years in Massachusetts.

What they found...¹⁷

- Their cost-effectiveness study in Massachusetts estimated:
 - 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.
 - In sum, this legislation will incur essentially no new costs to implement but can save the state millions every year**

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

The upshot: This legislation will save lives and money for Alaska.

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