

# OUT OF KIDS' HANDS

## HOW SENATE BILL 2774 COULD SAVE OUR STATE MILLIONS

In Rhode Island, eating disorders cost the state

**\$209.1**  
MILLION

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 SB 2774 likely to be minimal!<sup>15</sup>

- Health economists from The Heller School for Social Policy and Management from Brandeis University carried out a study, examining similar legislation from neighboring state of 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!<sup>15,16</sup>

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



### Expert economists say legislation like SB 2774 could save state millions!<sup>17</sup>

- 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...<sup>17</sup>

- Their cost-effectiveness study in Massachusetts estimated:
  - Similar legislation to SB 2774 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, SB 2774 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: **SB 2774 will save lives and money for Rhode Island.**

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