



# Lane County Public Health

## Prevention Program

**DATE:** March 8, 2013

**TO:** House Committee on Business and Labor

**RE:** HB 2702 | Establishes process for Oregon Liquor Control Commission to adopt rule declaring alcohol impact area upon petition by municipality.

Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee:

The Lane County Board of Commissioners has reviewed and is in support of HB 2702. We ask that after today's hearing you schedule a work session for the measure and pass it out to the floor of the House with a DO PASS recommendation. This bill would give the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) the authority to establish Alcohol Impact Areas to limit the sales of certain alcoholic beverages in defined geographical areas to address chronic health and safety problems.

The negative consequences that stem from the misuse and abuse of alcohol are serious concerns for residents of Lane County. Alcohol-induced deaths in Lane County are twice the rate of national averages, our fetal infant mortality rate is higher than state and national rates, and nearly one-third of our motor vehicle fatalities involve alcohol.

On consideration of this bill, the Lane County Board of Commissioners took into account our county's public health goal to promote healthy families, reduce chronic disease and addiction, and impact problems facing our public safety system. In summary, Lane County supports the bill because:

- It gives local jurisdictions a much needed tool to address chronic, alcohol-related problems that lead to public safety issues;
- It decreases access to inexpensive, high-alcohol content beverages popular among youth and street drinkers; and
- It promotes a culture that reflects positive health norms for our young people.

In 2010, six convenience stores in the Whiteaker Neighborhood of Eugene in Lane County voluntarily stopped selling inexpensive, fortified alcohol in partnership with the Eugene Police Department and OLCC. The ban officially went into effect after a 90-day trial period that occurred in 2009 after complaints of alcohol-related criminal and nuisance behavior. According to reports, crime dropped 70% in the affected area during the time the trial program was in place and resident complaints reduced significantly. If passed, HB 2702 could allow these and future efforts to be formally sustained and would help us work towards our goal of creating a healthy, thriving community. Lane County strongly urges your support.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this issue.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Adkisson, M.P.A., C.P.S.

Lane County Community Health Analyst/Prevention Specialist