



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

February 12, 2014

To: House Human Services and Housing Committee
Representative Carolyn Tomei, Chair
Representative David Gomberg, Vice Chair
Representative Andy Olson, Vice Chair

Re: HB 4073 Relating to nicotine use by minors - Support

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League has a national position on Children at Risk, which states that early intervention and prevention measures are effective in helping children reach their full potential. The League supports policies and programs at all levels of the community and government that promote the well-being, encourage the full development, and ensure the safety of all children.

HB 4073 defines tobacco products and adds vapor products as a nicotine solution. The bill states it is unlawful to distribute tobacco products or vapor products to persons under 18 years of age and it would be the crime of endangering the welfare of a minor. A posted notice would be required where these products are sold.

The information from Oregon Public Health notes that the use of cigarettes among teens has decreased but the use of e-cigarettes with the nicotine solution has increased. The Food and Drug Administration has not moved to regulate e-cigarettes, although the agency found the contents were toxic. However, tobacco products have already been found to be harmful to the health of young people and can lead to a lifetime of health problems. Oregon should not wait for the FDA to act and should declare that e-cigarettes are also illegal for minors under 18 years of age.

The League supports the enforcement of tobacco laws to restrict access and use of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and nicotine vapor products.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Robin Wisdom in cursive.

Robin Wisdom
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Karen Nibler in cursive.

Karen Nibler
Social Policy Coordinator