

# Health Department

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## Community Wellness & Prevention Program

February 5, 2014

Chair Tomei and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB 4115. My name is Adelle Adams and I am here representing Multnomah County. I work in Tobacco Prevention and Education Section of the County Health Department.

I want to express the County's deep concern about vapor products which are currently in use in our communities. These products are being packaged, advertised and marketed particularly to youths. Yet these products are not regulated and there is little research on the long-term effects on human health. For that reason, Multnomah County supports House Bill 4115 to help protect our youth from accessing and using these products.

We appreciate legislators' determination to ban the sale of e-cigarettes to minors. We strongly support HB 4115 because it requires that e-cigarettes be included in the Indoor Clean Air Act and we believe that this is critical. Without that inclusion, we are creating an environment where vaping is considered acceptable behavior and could become a normative culture for youth.

Here's what we do know that gives us such cause for concern:

Vapors often contain nicotine and preliminary testing has identified chemicals known to cause cancer and birth defects in first and secondhand e-cigarette vapor. The FDA has analyzed samples of e-cigarettes and has found carcinogens, and detectable levels of other toxic chemicals. In addition, they have analyzed samples of e-cigarettes marketed as "nicotine free" and found that they actually do contain nicotine.

Cigarette smoking is down in Oregon 57 percent among 11th graders and 74 percent among 8th graders since 1996. Yet, the use of e-cigarettes by teens and adults is on the rise, potentially creating new addictions to nicotine among our youth, deepening the addiction for current smokers, and renewing addiction for former smokers.

CDC data from the National Youth Tobacco Survey showed that e-cigarette use doubled among U.S. middle and high school students during 2011-2012. One in five youth trying e-cigarettes are not conventional cigarette smokers and are at risk of becoming addicted to nicotine through e-cigarettes.

E-cigarettes are advertised in child-friendly flavors, such as strawberry, chocolate, cotton candy and mint, and in packaging and smaller sizes that appeal to young people.

We are deeply concerned that this product is a Genie in a bottle. This bill will help to protect our youth and including e-cigarettes in the Indoor Clean Air Act will help create an environment that discourages their use.

Thank you for your time today and the opportunity to provide testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

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