

Catholic Community Services

*We champion the positive development of children and adults,
strengthen families and build community.*

February 9, 2015

Attn: House Health Care Committee, Chair Greenlick and Committee Members.

Please accept this written testimony in support of HB 2465.

Catholic Community Services has been supporting children, youth and families since 1938. We serve about 4000 people each year in a variety of social services, including foster care, treatment foster care, residential treatment, mental health services, mentoring, housing and other community based supports.

E-cigarettes (including liquids and inhaler mechanisms) pose a serious concern to our young Oregonians. One of the things I have learned in my 22 years in social service is that any substance use that becomes “ritualistic” or “methodical” at a young age become very hard to break and leads to other risky behaviors. As an organization that serves many children and youth, the use of these devices is distracting in regard to treatment services. Treatment providers need clear cut supportive policy in this matter that aligns policy, treatment services and best practices.

Over the past decade our organization has shifted focus from treatment services based on disease, dysfunction and disability to a focus on wellness, health, nurturing relationships and promoting physical health as a means of ensuring mental health. These e-cigarettes and other devices do not align with the mission and philosophy that we see as being critical to the people we serve. A key concept of our mission printed at the top of this testimony is to “champion the positive development of children”, this mission needs your support and in this vain I ask for your support of HB 2465.

Thank you for your service to the people of the State of Oregon and your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Joshua K. Graves
Chief Administrative Officer
Catholic Community Services

cc: Oregon Alliance of Children’s Programs (OACP)

CCSwv.org

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