



**Testimony in Support SB 190
March 6, 2015
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Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association in support of SB 190, which restricts the shipment and transport of tobacco products, helps to ensure tobacco related transactions are face-to-face transactions, and provides Oregon's Attorney General the tools to enforce these regulations.

The Oregon Nurses Association is proud to represent over 13,000 Oregon nurses throughout the state. With nurses in nearly every health care setting, ONA advocates for the profession of nursing, quality patient care, and public health. ONA members have long been committed to tobacco prevention and cessation efforts. From the e-cigarette regulations progressing this session to advocating for the Tobacco Master Settlement Funds to be directed towards prevention and public health efforts, and working to increase Oregon's cigarette tax, nurses have demonstrated that they are eager to lend their voice to tobacco prevention efforts. SB 190 aligns with these efforts very well.

Despite overall reductions in the smoking rate, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death in Oregon, claiming the lives of more than 6,000 Oregonians each year—more lives than car accidents, suicide, AIDS, and murder combined. In addition to this unnecessary loss of life, tobacco use costs the state more than \$2 billion each year in health costs and lost productivity.

Without a face-to-face exchange, there can be no assurance that tobacco products are being kept out of the hands of minors. According to the Federal Trade Commission, the tobacco industry spent more than \$125 million a year marketing its products in Oregon between 1998 and 2008, and many of those dollars were aimed at hooking young people on tobacco products. Almost no one starts smoking after age 25. In fact, nine out of ten smokers started smoking by age 18.ⁱ Keeping tobacco out of the hands of minors is key to reducing the number of adult smokers in Oregon, and will ultimately result in cost savings and healthier communities.

ONA strongly urges you to act to protect public health and Oregon's tobacco prevention efforts by supporting SB 190.

ⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. U.S. Surgeon General's Office. *Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults*. 2012. Web. <http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/sgr/2012/consumer_booklet/pdfs/consumer.pdf>.