

**March 23rd, 2015
Testimony to the Senate Committee On Health Care
Support of HB 2546A**

Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair Kruse, and Members of the Senate Health Care Committee:

My name is Sara Hartstein and I am the Benton County Health Policy Specialist. I am testifying today on behalf of the Coalition of Local Health Officials, representing the 34 Local Health Departments who work diligently to protect the public and prevent death and disease. The Coalition of Local Health Officials supports HB 2546A, which would regulate e-cigarettes by prohibiting access to children under 18 and also ban the use of these products in public places.

HB 2546 defines Inhalant Delivery Systems, (commonly referred to as e-cigarettes) as the device used to deliver nicotine, or cannabinoids, and the components sold for the purpose of being vaporized or aerosolized (commonly referred to as e-juice).

E-cigarettes are unregulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Absent this federal regulation the current landscape of e-cigarettes— including product design and availability, sales, marketing, and use— is one of rapid change and high variability. Significant questions remain regarding the safety and impact of e-cigarettes on patterns of conventional tobacco use.

E-cigarettes are marketed in ways that make them especially attractive to youth— including the 8,000 flavors of e-juice currently on the market¹. It has been found that secondhand e-cigarette aerosol contains nicotine, particulate matter and known carcinogens, and has been found to cause a 20 percent degradation of indoor air quality^{2 3}.

Promoting the public's health and safety is a top priority for Benton County. Benton County and the City of Corvallis have already taken an important step to prohibit the sale of inhalant delivery systems to minors and their use where smoking is already not allowed by law. The local ordinances also ensure that smoke and vape shops are smoke and vapor free.

The Coalition of Local Health Officials urges you to support this important bill.

Thank you,
Sara Hartstein
Health Policy Specialist
Benton County Health Department

¹ Zhu SH, Sun JY, Bonnevie E, Cummins SE, Gamst A, Yin L, Lee M. Four hundred and sixty brands of e-cigarettes and counting: implications for product regulation. *Tobacco Control*. 2014;23(suppl 3):iii3- iii

² Legacy Foundation. 2014. Tobacco Factsheet

³ Promoting Health and Preventing Disease and Injury through Workplace Tobacco Polices. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.