

March 23rd, 2015
Testimony to the Senate Committee On Health Care
Support of SB 416

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

The Coalition of Local Health Officials, representing the 34 Local Health Departments in Oregon, supports SB 416, requiring payment of a fee for smoke shop certification, and renewal of certification every five years.

Oregon's Indoor Clean Air Act (ICAA) protects nearly every Oregon employee and the public from the health risks of secondhand smoke by prohibiting smoking in most public places and workplaces.

While not including exemptions in the ICAA remains the best policy, exemptions to the law exist and include certified smoke shops and cigar bars.

Cigar bars and smoke shops do not pay a fee to cover the costs of certification or re-certification. The cost of certification of cigar bars and smoke shops is funded using funds dedicated for tobacco prevention and education by the 1996 Ballot Measure 44.

Certifying smoke shops and cigar bars takes staff time for responding to inquiries from the public and smoke shop businesses, reviewing and processing applications. Other costs include legal fees for responding to challenges brought by businesses denied certification and training and materials costs.

SB 416 requires the Oregon Health Authority to impose a reasonable fee to cover the costs of smoke shop certification and ensure that the regulation of smoke shops is not unfunded work of our state's public health prevention experts.

Respectfully submitted,

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