

Senate Health Care Committee  
April 13, 2015  
CLHO Testimony on SB 663

The Coalition of Local Health Officials represents the 34 local public health departments in Oregon who work tirelessly to protect the public's health and prevent the spread of disease. The Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO) supports a strong tobacco and vapor product licensure program. However we have concerns about some of the provisions within SB 663 -2 amendment.

One of the top goals of the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP), operating in our local public health departments, is to prevent youth from getting hooked on tobacco and nicotine products. Local health departments are charged with protecting the health of Oregonians and work to create local policies to restrict access to e-cigarettes and tobacco. Retail licensure is an important tool for these prevention efforts.

While we support the overall intent of -2 amendment to SB 663, the provisions within SB663 Section 5 (2)(3) and Section 13 are very concerning to us. Section 5(2) creates a sampling exemption for Inhalant Delivery System businesses and then Section 5(3) weakens Section 5(2) even further. Both of these provisions within Section 5 continue a patchwork system of exemptions to the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act with different statutes for Cigar bars, smoke shops and now Inhalant Delivery System businesses. The best public health policy and the easiest to enforce would be no exemptions to the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act.

Currently several jurisdictions in Oregon have strong local ordinances that do not allow vapor products to be sampled indoors.

Retailer licensure would give Oregon a powerful tool to ensure compliance with tobacco laws and pending inhalant delivery system laws. Most states have some system for licensing tobacco retailers, and can withhold those licenses if retailers are selling to kids.

We would urge you to continue working on this bill.

Thank you,

Morgan D. Cowling, MPA  
CLHO Executive Director

