



To: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

From: John Bishop, OSSA Executive Director
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association and the
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: April 15, 2015

Re: Support for SB 732

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Please accept this letter of support for SB 732 from the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police.

The Oregon State Sheriffs and Police Chiefs support a single age standard for tobacco, marijuana, and alcohol that will create a consistent enforcement standard that the public can clearly understand and that our officers can enforce. Perhaps most importantly, the age limit this measure proposes is designed to protect minors from substances that can lead to abuse and addiction.

Additionally, this bill will provide added clarity around inhalant delivery systems. These systems are capable of containing a wide range of substances that are difficult for our officers to identify. By having a single age the confusion for enforcement of these laws is severely reduced. We believe clear and consistent standards will insure that officers can focus on criminal activity that put the safety of the public and the livability of our communities at risk.

Substance abuse is a significant factor that drives the utilization of law enforcement, mental health and healthcare resources. Any measure that provides a standard that can result in early intervention or deterrents to youth abuse of addictive substances will help reduce future impacts to youth, their families and our communities.

We urge you to support SB 732