



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 27, 2017

**HOUSE BILL 3345 (SUPPORT) – Increased Protections from Secondhand Smoke**

Chair Greenlick, Vice-Chairs Hayden and Nosse, and Members of the Committee on Health Care:

As a Chief Sponsor of HB 3345, I strongly encourage you to vote in support of this bill, which would help reduce the negative health impacts of secondhand smoke in and around public places and places of employment in Oregon.

The impacts of secondhand smoke are well documented and there is no safe level of exposure. Secondhand smoke kills hundreds of Oregonians each year and causes a wide range of serious health issues such as lung cancer, pulmonary disease, and heart disease. Nevertheless, many Oregonians continue to suffer from exposure to secondhand smoke.

In order to reduce the harmful effects of secondhand smoke, HB 3345 will increase, from 10 to 25 feet, the distance from entrances, exits, windows, and vents of public places and places of employment where smoking, aerosolizing, or vaporizing can occur. This larger buffer aligns with buffers in the neighboring states of Washington (25 feet) and California (20 feet). HB 3345 also expands the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act definition of “public place” to include common areas of commercial residential buildings with two or more rental units.

By clarifying where existing regulations apply, filling gaps, and increasing the buffer, HB 3345 will better protect Oregonians from secondhand smoke in and around public places and places of employment throughout the state.

I respectfully request that you vote in favor of HB 3345 and stand with me and the majority of Oregonians who support increased protections from the detrimental health impacts of secondhand smoke.

Sincerely,

Representative Ken Helm  
House District 34

