



Testimony in Opposition of HB 2736

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Chair Lininger and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of robust protections and enforcement of the Indoor Clean Air Act, which allows Oregonians to live healthier, more productive lives. The Oregon Nurses Association is proud to represent nearly 15,000 Oregon nurses, working in settings from large hospitals to small local clinics, corrections and community-based public health.

ONA nurses are intimately aware of the detrimental effects of smoking and second hand smoke, which is why we are supportive of protecting and expanding the Indoor Clean Air Act. Oregon first implemented the Indoor Clean Air Act (ICAA) in 2009 to ban smoking in many enclosed public spaces and continues to expand it to ensure that Oregonians are protected from tobacco and nicotine smoke and vapor.

Although OHA certified smoke shops and cigar bars were exempted from the law, the ICAA specifically prohibits smoking where alcohol is served, including restaurants, bars and enclosed areas because of the harmful health effects of second hand smoke, including heightened risk of heart and lung disease and cancer. House Bill 2736 works against this provision in the Indoor Clean Air Act by allowing smoke shops to permit alcohol consumption on site. This is in direct violation of the ICAA and opens a dangerous door to further weakening provisions in the Indoor Clean Air Act, once again exposing Oregonians to the dangers of second hand smoke and vapor. By advertising and allowing concurrent alcohol consumption, this bill would also likely encourage tobacco use to a wider audience, promoting tobacco smoking, not working to prevent it.

The minimal economic development impact this bill *may* produce also pales in comparison to the detrimental public health impacts and lost economic output that smoking causes. In 2014 alone, the state of Oregon lost \$1.1 billion in lost productivity from premature tobacco related deaths and spent \$1.4 billion on tobacco related medical expenses.¹

It makes the most economic sense to work to further reduce tobacco and nicotine use and expand the Indoor Clean Air Act, not work to weaken the ICAA through proposals like HB 2736. The dangerous impacts of smoking far outweigh the desire for smoke shop patrons to consume alcohol onsite.

The Indoor Clean Air Act has been tremendously successful in limiting second-hand smoke and the prevalence of smoking has also declined. For those Oregonians who wish to smoke and drink at the same time, there are a number of options already afforded in the ICAA. The state does not need to carve out additional spaces for concurrent tobacco and alcohol consumption.

As direct care providers for many Oregonians who suffer from chronic illness as a result of tobacco and nicotine, we urge you to oppose the dangerous precedent that HB 2736 sets and instead ask you to support more robust economic development policies that put the health and productivity of Oregonians first.

¹ OHA Tobacco Fact Sheet 2014