

COALITION OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

**Senate Committee on Health Care  
Opposition to Senate Bill 799  
March 30, 2017**

Good afternoon Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair Kruse, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Griggs and I am the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP) Coordinator for the Benton County Health Department. I am here today on behalf of the Coalition of Local Health Officials, representing all 34 Local Public Health Departments in Oregon, to highlight some concerns with the proposed exemption to the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act (ICAA).

Oregon's ICAA protects the health of all people by reducing secondhand smoke exposure, the overall smoking rate, and increasing quit attempts by tobacco users. The ICAA has also helped to change social norms around smoking making it less likely that a young person will try tobacco.

E-cigarette use among Oregon high school students has more than tripled since 2013 with 17.1% of students currently using e-cigarettes. The acceptance of e-cigarette use in public and other visible places poses a challenge for maintaining the strong normative pressure against smoking that has been achieved in recent years. Allowing the sampling of vaping products indoors, and the marketing and advertising that accompanies it, only works to increase the acceptance of e-cigarette use among youth.

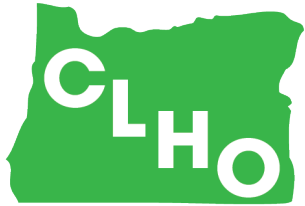
The proposed exemption also poses a challenge to enforcement of Oregon's ICAA. Local Public Health Departments work with the Oregon Health Authority to enforce the law by responding to complaints and conducting site visits to determine if a business is in violation. There is no way to determine whether a customer is sampling e-liquid flavors or vaping nicotine or cannabinoids indoors. This is why the ICAA currently prohibits the use of inhalant delivery systems indoors no matter the content.

In addition, businesses that sell e-cigarettes are not required to be certified by the Oregon Health Authority. This means that various types of businesses could allow vaping indoors with little restrictions. Unlike certified smoke shops in Oregon, businesses could allow video lottery, sell food, allow on premise alcohol consumption, and be located in a strip mall. This would significantly weaken the ICAA and present extra enforcement challenges. The responsibility of determining the status of a business and whether they are in compliance with the ICAA would fall on the Local Public Health Department which would require additional capacity and resources for enforcement.



For more information please contact Morgan Cowling, Executive Director  
morgan@oregonclho.org | 503-329-6923 | oregonclho.org





COALITION OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

Benton County and the City of Corvallis already prohibit smoking and vaping indoors in all public locations with no exemptions (including smoke shops, vape shops, hookah lounges, and cigar bars). The motivation to close this loophole was the result of concerns previously mentioned and the concern to protect employees from exposure to secondhand smoke, including e-cigarettes vapor and aerosol.

On behalf of the Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials, I urge you to continue to protect the health of all Oregonians and oppose this bill.



For more information please contact Morgan Cowling, Executive Director  
[morgan@oregonclho.org](mailto:morgan@oregonclho.org) | 503-329-6923 | [oregonclho.org](http://oregonclho.org)

