



March 30, 2017

SUBJECT: Vote **NO** on Senate Bill 799

We are writing today as your constituents to urge your opposition to Senate Bill 799. This bill would roll back years of progress in tobacco control and public health in Oregon by weakening our statewide Indoor Clean Air Act (ICAA).

This bill would create a huge hole in Oregon's ICAA, allowing for sampling of e-cigarettes in businesses that sell them. 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 few restrictions. Unlike certified smoke shops in Oregon, these 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.

According to the Oregon Health Authority, preliminary testing has identified chemicals known to cause cancer and birth defects in both firsthand and secondhand e-cigarette vapor, posing a direct threat to those exposed. Youth are particularly susceptible to vaping due to appealing flavors such as cotton candy and sour apple. Research has shown a steady rise in youth usage throughout Oregon; in Washington County, 16 percent of 11<sup>th</sup> graders and eight percent of 8<sup>th</sup> graders use vaping products. 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. This sends the wrong message to kids in Oregon about our commitment to preventing nicotine addiction and prioritizing the health of our children and families.

We need to continue to support rules that protect youth and adults from the dangers of tobacco and nicotine dependence. Please continue to protect the health of every person in Oregon and vote **NO** on Senate Bill 799.

Thank you,

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