

From: Catherine Kaiser
To: [LRO](#)
Subject: STRONGLY OPPOSING HB 3296
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House Committee on Revenue
900 Court St. NE—HR A
Salem, Oregon 97301

Written testimony on April 10th 2017

I am **strongly opposing HB 3296**

Dear Chair Barnhart and Committee Members

I am a 64yr old resident of Oregon. As of May 1st this year I will be forced to go on Medicare. My Medicare premiums are going to be higher than the Market Place insurance I currently have. I worked my whole life paying thousands of dollars into Social Security and Medicare which was intended to make my life as a Senior a time to enjoy my life. Well, I could barely survive on the Retirement Social Security I am getting, no raise last year and a \$4 raise this year. My space rent in the park I own my Mobile Home in raised our space rent by \$35 as of Jan. 1st 2017. My car insurance went up, my house insurance went up, groceries went up and so on and so on. That has caused my monthly income come that I have to spend dropped even more. Then finding out about how much money I have to pay for Medicare and prescriptions, my income I have to live on took another hit so much so that I now have to go to the food bank so I can eat. It is very embarrassing for me to have to ask for a hand out as I have always taken care of myself and never asked for any hand outs until now. I feel that everyone has forgotten about all the Senior Citizens that need help because they do not have to live like we do so they just don't care.

I am not a vape shop owner, I am just a regular Oregonian that is losing my right to choose as an Adult more and more. I am a vaper after having smoked 45yrs of my life and after doing a lot of research and switching to vaping, I have been cigarette free from day one for over 2 1/2 years now and have also lowered my nicotine level to ZERO. My goal is to eventually not smoke or vape, but I cannot commit to when I may be able to stop vaping due to how many years I acquired the hand to mouth gesture of smoking . Not sure how long it may take for that habit to go away after all these years, but I have much hope it will. Yes I tried the Pharmaceutical smoking cessation products and unfortunately they did not work for me. I don't have a problem with the Pharmaceutical products and if they help people quit smoking more power to them. Now you are trying to burden the Vape Shops so much they will be forced out of Business, cause job losses, no way to feed their families, more empty store fronts, and most important take away another option for current smokers to try to stop smoking. The more people that stop smoking the less deaths, and less burden on the health

care organizations.

I am very passionate and proud of myself for being able to put down cigarettes with the help of vaping. Now you want to take that away from me and others and force people back to smoking which is not what you should ethically want to happen. Every bill that burdens Vape Shop owners also affects me and my ability to access these products. That does not sit with me will at all. I don't want to be a victim of the "Budget Shortfall" where you are trying to fill the gap at the expense of my health and my choices as an adult to vape. I am an extremely angry citizen of Oregon at the moment and we pay you to do proper research on what you are passing bills on. Once again, take a good hard look at the States that have already implemented a tax on vaping and you will see that they are not getting little to no tax dollars that they were expecting because the shops are closing and moving to more vape friendly states.

What I see is going on in Oregon is "Follow the money" with no regard to letting Adults decide whether they want to vape or not. You don't own my body. If I sound upset with what I am writing in this testimony you can bet I am about as upset as it gets.

I find it despicable that when I hear people on the Legislature from the health organizations say we just don't have enough research yet, that is a flat out lie. They just for whatever reason, don't want to tell the truth. Not sure how they can be qualified to make decisions about people's lives by not stating the truth. They quote negative things about vaping but the information they are quoting has not been backed up by reputable science. They cherry pick what they want to say and that is not ok with me. I am a person not an object and expect to be treated like one.

It is no secret that all the tax proposals this year are due to Prop. 97 not passing. Everyone I talked to that opposed Prop. 97 was because they do not have faith or the trust that our Legislature would not waste the money on other things it was not intended for and the intended use was not put into the Constitution so you would have been getting a blank check and myself and others have already seen how you miss handle the funds you get now and figured you would do the same with that money.

In conclusion, I am sure you know how angry I am with all the taxes, vaping or not. I am a registered voter in Oregon and am very much watching what the Legislature has done in the past and also this year so far.

I did not include any articles with this testimony as I feel we pay you to do honest research on subjects you may not be familiar with not just go by what others at the Capitol tell you. It is your duty to know firsthand what you are voting for or against when you are passing bills that could affect people's lives and choices.

I will not vote in the future, as I did in the last election, for anyone that does not support

vaping to its fullest. That is just how important this issue is to me. I will be adding who is passing all these tax bills to that list also.

Thank you for reading this as it means more to me than you will ever know. I am looking forward to seeing some positive results going forward.

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