



April 23, 2017

Washington County Board of Commissioners
Support SB 754

Washington County Board of County Commissioners supports SB 754, which increases the minimum age for the purchase of tobacco products to 21. Washington County has joined our public health partners across the region and in the state to reduce long-term health effects of smoking tobacco products.

The Board of County Commissioners supports SB 754, which raises the minimum age for the purchase and possession of tobacco to 21. Tobacco use remains the most preventable cause of illness and death in America. Because of this, Clackamas County, in addition to many of our other public health partners, has made reducing the use of tobacco and other nicotine products a top priority, particularly among youth.

It's clear from data produced by 2015 Oregon Healthy Teen Survey a high percentage of teens across Oregon have attempted to purchase tobacco products and a larger percentage recognize the ease it is to current get tobacco products.

We are confident that by raising the bar to 21 there will be a decline in attempted purchases of tobacco products, which will lead to less teens hooked on tobacco before they are 21.

Washington County supports two important elements of SB 754. They include:

- A uniform, statewide minimum age for the purchase or possession of tobacco or other inhalant delivery systems.
- Penalizing the sale of tobacco products to persons under the age of 21.

These items are critical to providing a process that moves the bar for purchase of tobacco and reduce the long term risks associated with use of tobacco products.