

ELIZABETH STEINER HAYWARD MD
STATE SENATOR



OREGON STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 17

April 24th, 2017

The Honorable Chair Greenlick
Chair, House Health Care Committee
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee on Health Care,

Senate Bill 754 was introduced as a public health bill so that fewer young people will become addicted to nicotine, and fewer Oregonians overall will be negatively affected by tobacco related diseases. As you know, Senate Bill 754 will increase the legal purchasing age of tobacco to 21. I've had many conversations with stakeholders and colleagues, and would like to address what the A-Engrossed bill reasonably lays out.

Many people had concerns that this legislation may result in more police interactions with young people. I want to make it clear that my intent with this bill is two-fold-- to improve public health, and to decrease costs in our health care system around tobacco related diseases; my intent is not to increase impact on the criminal justice system. In the A-Engrossed bill, the language reflects that there are no penalties or confiscation permissible by law, ensuring that enforcement of SB 754 will not become a vehicle for racial profiling.

However, consequences must be enforced for the law to be effective. SB 754 outlines a reasonable fine structure for retailers, which is in line with existing penalties. The structure follows:

- The salesperson or clerk who sells tobacco to a minor will be fined \$50.
- The manager responsible will be fined \$250 for the first or second violation, and \$500 for a subsequent violation.
- The owner responsible will be fined \$500 for the first or second violation, and \$1,000 for a subsequent violation.

I am grateful for the public input and attention given to this bill by my Senate colleagues, and look forward to working with you in protecting the health of Oregonians for years to come.

Sincerely,

Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, MD

