



Collective Impact Initiative

Be Your Best Cottage Grove  
Steering Committee:

*Anytime Fitness*  
Samantha Duncan

*Banner Bank*  
James Gilroy

*Dorena Grange*  
Dr. Jimmy Schaper

*Family Relief Nursery*  
Diane Hazen  
Crystal Morrison

*Family Resources Center*  
Ana Maria Dudley

*First Presbyterian Church*  
Cynthia Sharp

*KNND*  
Cindy Weeldreyer

*Looking Glass*  
Lorina Wolfard

*Parent Partnership*  
Karol Kuhn Simons

*PeaceHealth Hospital*  
Jessica Baker  
Tim Herrmann

*South Lane Mental Health Board*  
Cathy Bellavita  
Dr. James Harrison MD

*South Lane Mental Health*  
Valeria Clarke  
Jody Rolnick  
Tom Wheeler

*South Lane School Board*  
Alan Baas

*South Lane School District*  
Garret Bridgens  
Jackie Lester  
Krista Parent

*Sustainable Cottage Grove*  
Beth Pool  
Rob Dickinson

*The Child Center*  
Lezlee Craven

*United Way of Lane County*  
Heather Amrhein

March 6, 2017

TO: Lane County Board of Commissioners

FR: Be Your Best Steering Committee, Cottage Grove

**RE: Strong Support for County Ordinance 17-01 to “Prohibit Tobacco Sales to Persons Under 21 Years of Age”**

Be Your Best (BYB), a planning committee of local and regional stakeholders dedicated to improving the health of our community and region through collaborative action, strongly urges the Lane County Board of Commissioners to adopt the proposed Tobacco 21 Ordinance. Doing so would be a significant step in our ongoing efforts to prevent youth tobacco use and addiction.

We are pleased to know that our County leaders are willing to take such vigorous and effective steps as this ordinance sets forth in an effort to reduce access to tobacco by our youth and reduce the number of youth who will become addicted to tobacco, ultimately stemming the tide of tobacco-related ailments and deaths. We also realize that the ordinance has been moved forward to March 14, 2017 for a third reading before passage, with two exceptions built in.

**We want to strongly encourage you to approve the ordinance to raise the tobacco sales age to 21** that is coming before you on March 14, with two important qualifiers:

**1. Please retain the exception that allows clerks of 18 years or older to sell cigarettes and**

**2. Eliminate the clause that calls for “grandfathering” an exception for individuals who were 18 years or older in April of this year.**

Tobacco users who are 18 to 21 years of age are often still experimenting. However, this is a vulnerable time when their brains are more susceptible to addiction. If this ordinance applies to this age group, it will give them an opportunity to quit before they are controlled by addiction. If this ordinance continues to exempt this age group, there will be no incentive for them to quit, and most individuals that young don’t want to quit yet. As long as they can continue to buy tobacco, they will continue to use tobacco and provide tobacco to their younger peers. What the grandfathering clause does is provide a window for more youth to become addicted, both under and over age 18.



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Other states and regions that have enacted similar legislation with a grandfathering clause report that the exemption resulted in confusion and generally contributed to diminishing the measure's effectiveness.

Please accept our appreciation for considering this important local legislation to address tobacco use within our community. This ordinance is a critical component in a larger strategy to improve the public health within our community and our region. We strongly urge you to adopt this ordinance with the two important qualifiers mentioned above.

Sincerely,

Alan Baas

On behalf of the Be Your Best-Cottage Grove Steering Committee

*The Be Your Best-Cottage Grove Steering Committee*

Samantha Duncan, James Gilroy, Dr. Jimmy Schaper, Diane Hazen, Crystal Morrison, Ana Marie Dudley, Cynthia Sharp, Cindy Weeldreyer, Lorina Wolfard, Karol Kuhn Simons, Jessica Baker, Tim Herrmann, Cathy Bellavita, Dr. James Harrison MD., Valeria Clarke, Jody Rolnick, Tom Wheeler, Alan Baas, Garrett Bridgens, Jackie Lester, Krista Parent, Beth Pool, Rob Dickinson, Lezlee Craven, Heather Amrhein