



Testimony in Opposition to SB 1044-A11

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May 24, 2017

Chair Lininger and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of robust protections and enforcement of the Indoor Clean Air Act, which allows Oregonians to live healthier, more productive lives. The Oregon Nurses Association is proud to represent nearly 15,000 Oregon nurses, working in settings from large hospitals to small local clinics, corrections and community-based public health.

ONA nurses are intimately aware of the detrimental effects of smoking and second hand smoke, which is why we are supportive of protecting and expanding the Indoor Clean Air Act. Oregon first implemented the Indoor Clean Air Act (ICAA) in 2009 to ban smoking in many enclosed public spaces and continues to expand it to ensure that Oregonians are protected from tobacco and nicotine smoke and vapor.

ONA opposes the -11 amendments because the dangerous impacts of smoking far outweigh the desire for smoke shop patrons to consume alcohol onsite. Although some OHA certified cigar bars were exempted from the law, the ICAA prohibits smoking where alcohol is served, including restaurants, bars and enclosed areas because of the harmful health effects of second hand smoke for patrons and employees, including heightened risk of heart and lung disease and cancer. For those Oregonians who wish to smoke and drink at the same time, there are options already afforded in the ICAA. The state does not need to carve out additional spaces for concurrent tobacco and alcohol consumption.

The proposed -11 amendments to SB 1044A significantly weaken the Indoor Clean Air Act by permitting smoke shops and cigar bars to hold parties and events with alcohol and catering, exposing smoking and second-hand smoke to a significantly larger audience. This functionally promotes tobacco smoking as opposed to discouraging its further use. This amendment would open a dangerous door to further weakening provisions in the Indoor Clean Air Act, once again exposing Oregonians to the dangers of second hand smoke and vapor.

The minimal economic development impact this bill *may* produce also pales in comparison to the detrimental public health impacts and lost economic output that smoking causes. In 2014 alone, the state of Oregon lost \$1.1 billion in lost productivity from premature tobacco related deaths and spent \$1.4 billion on tobacco related medical expenses.¹ It makes the most economic sense to work to further reduce tobacco and nicotine use and expand the Indoor Clean Air Act, not work to weaken the ICAA.

As direct care providers for many Oregonians who suffer from chronic illness as a result of tobacco and nicotine, we urge you to oppose the dangerous precedent that SB 1044-A11 sets and instead ask you to support more robust economic development policies that put the health and productivity of Oregonians first.

¹ OHA Tobacco Fact Sheet 2014