

**BEFORE THE BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
FOR THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR THE COUNTY OF BENTON**

In the Matter of Recommending the Oregon)
Legislature to Reduce Tobacco Use by Young) RESOLUTION #R2016-017
People and to Support the Health of Oregonians)

WHEREAS, tobacco use is a major preventable cause of illness and premature death, and is responsible for approximately 7,126 deaths a year in Oregon; and

WHEREAS, the annual economic impact of smoking in Benton County is approximately \$34 million in health care costs and lost workforce productivity; and

WHEREAS, the burden and harm of tobacco use falls hardest on lower-income Oregonians; and

WHEREAS those on the Oregon Health Plan smoke at three times the rate of other Oregonians; and

WHEREAS, 8 percent of Benton County 11th graders smoke cigarettes, and 12 percent use electronic vapor devices; and

WHEREAS, public health data show that 95 percent of tobacco users start smoking before they turn 21; and

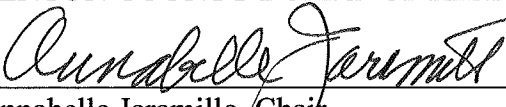
WHEREAS, two states and 191 communities across the United States have enacted laws raising the minimum legal age for tobacco sales to 21; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Benton County Board of Health hereby recommends the Oregon Legislature raise the minimum legal sale age for tobacco, electronic smoking devices, and nicotine products to 21 years of age in the 2017 legislative session.

Adopted this 20th day of September, 2016.

Signed this 20th day of September, 2016.


BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH



Annabelle Jaramillo, Chair



Anne Schuster, Commissioner



Jay Dixon, Commissioner