



MEMORANDUM

To: Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair, Senate Committee on Health
Sen. Jeff Kruse, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Health
Members of the Senate Health Care Committee

From: Courtni Dresser, OMA Government Relations
Trevor Beltz, OMA Government Relations

Date: February 14, 2017

Re: SB 754 Support

The Oregon Medical Association supports raising the minimum age at which a person may purchase tobacco to 21 years of age, as it will prevent future smokers and ensure a healthier community.

The statistics show that tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of morbidity and mortality in the United States, causing over 1,300 deaths every day¹. Representing over 8,000 physicians, physician assistants, and medical school students, our members see first-hand the impact tobacco use can have on patients and their families, and furthermore the tremendous cost it places on the health care system.

Studies have shown over 80 percent of adults who smoke had their first experience with tobacco before they turned 18, placing importance on postponing the age of first use. Increasing the minimum required age to purchase tobacco products will decrease the likelihood of addiction as well as exposure at an early age.

Thank you for your consideration.

The Oregon Medical Association serves and supports over 8,200 physicians, physician assistants and student members in their efforts to improve the health of all Oregonians. Additional information can be found at www.theOMA.org.

¹ Courtney, R. (2015). The Health Consequences of Smoking-50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General, 2014Us Department of Health and Human Services Atlanta, GA: Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Drug and Alcohol Review Drug Alcohol Rev, 34(6), 694-695. doi:10.1111/dar.12309