



February 14, 2017

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners  
Policy Position  
SB 754: Tobacco 21**

**Clackamas County supports SB 754:** The Board of County Commissioners supports SB 754, which raises the minimum age for the purchase and possession of tobacco to 21.

Tobacco use remains the most preventable cause of illness and death in America. Because of this, Clackamas County, in addition to many of our other public health partners, has made reducing the use of tobacco and other nicotine products a top priority, particularly among youth.

Data from the 2015 Oregon Healthy Teen Survey indicates that 28% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders in Clackamas County used some form of tobacco product within the last 30 days and that 35% said it would be “very easy” to get some tobacco if they wanted it. The recently released report of the state’s Tobacco Retail Inspection Program affirms that 25% of attempted tobacco purchases by minors in Clackamas County were successful.

Clackamas County supports two principles currently within SB 754 to address youth access to tobacco products:

- A uniform, statewide minimum age for the purchase or possession of tobacco or other inhalant delivery systems.
- Penalizing the sale of tobacco products to persons under the age of 21.

**We urge a “yes” vote for SB 754.**

Please contact Chris Lyons at [clyons@clackamas.us](mailto:clyons@clackamas.us) for more information.