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February 14, 2017

Chair Monnes Anderson and Members,
Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 754

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Our organization, One n Four Chronic Health was founded to ensure access to health care treatment for people living with chronic health conditions, and to work towards the prevention of new chronic health conditions.

There are very few actions we can take as a society that will have a greater potential positive health impact on the health of all Oregonians than preventing young people from a lifetime of potential addiction and dependency on tobacco products.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publication, "Youth and Tobacco Use*", 9 out of 10 young people smoked their first cigarette before the age of 18. For far too many of these youth, this will unfortunately become a lifetime dependency with the potential of serious preventable health issues and a shortened life span.

Having the ability to prevent sales of tobacco products (and electronic cigarettes) to young people under the age of 21 is one of the most tangible tools available to help prevent new tobacco use, save the estimated 68,000 lives of Oregon children who die from premature tobacco use.

It is for these reasons that we are proud to support the American Cancer Society's Cancer Action Network in their 2017 legislative priorities of reducing Lung Cancer and strengthening laws to prevent youth access to tobacco products.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with this testimony, I am available to answer any questions at 206/601-8453.

Regards,

BJ Cavnor
Executive Director

*Reference: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth and Tobacco Use
https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/youth_data/tobacco_use/

a voice for patients

1-in-4.org