



February 28, 2019  
Senate Business and General Government Committee  
Testimony Opposing SB 639



Tom Kuhn call-in #: (541) 322-7410

Chair Riley, Vice-Chair Girod and Members of the Senate Business and General Government Committee:

My name is Tom Kuhn and I am the Community Health Manager for Deschutes County Health Services. I am here testifying on behalf of Deschutes County and the Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO) in opposition to SB 639. On behalf of both organizations, we urge the committee to take no action on this bill at this time.

My testimony today focuses on two major concerns with the bill:

1. This bill will weaken Oregon's Indoor Clean Air Act; and
2. Allowing for marijuana use at temporary events, festivals, fests and fairs will continue to make marijuana more appealing for youth.

First, this bill will weaken Oregon's Indoor Clean Air Act. SB 639 compromises Oregon's Indoor Clean Air Act by allowing the use of cannabis indoors and at temporary events that may have indoor areas. Oregon's Indoor Clean Air Act exists to protect workers and patrons from unhealthy smoke and vapor. Marijuana smoke has significant amounts of heavy metals like mercury, cadmium, nickel, lead, and chromium.<sup>i</sup> Recent research has found that one minute of secondhand marijuana smoke reduces blood vessel function to the same extent as tobacco, but the harmful effects on the heart last three times longer. After just one minute of secondhand marijuana smoke exposure, there was a 60 percent drop in blood vessel function.<sup>ii</sup> Ventilation systems are not enough to protect patrons and workers from the effects of secondhand smoke and vapor.

Secondly, allowing the continued expansion of the marijuana industry to temporary events, will continue to promote the use of marijuana and is concerning for the impact on youth usage. According to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission website Oregon has over 600 marijuana retailers, more than McDonalds and Starbucks in Oregon, combined. In the 2017 Oregon Healthy Teens survey, 42.6 percent of 11<sup>th</sup> graders reported that it was "very easy" to get marijuana. When the same survey asked about ease of access to beer, wine, liquor, e-cigarette or vape products, and prescription medication, marijuana was the easiest to get. Early marijuana use by teens and adolescents is associated with greater risk of addiction and greater potential harm to brain function.<sup>iii</sup>

While this bill seems to be about adults using a legal product, the impacts of creating additional exceptions to the Indoor Clean Air Act and allowing temporary events go beyond the individual to the workers in the businesses and the community at large. That is what makes this issue very complex.

We urge the committee to oppose and take no action on this bill.

I'd be happy to answer any questions.

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<sup>i</sup> Moir, D., et al., A comparison of mainstream and sidestream marijuana and tobacco cigarette smoke produced under two machine smoking conditions. *Chem Res Toxicol* 21: 494-502. (2008).  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18062674>

<sup>ii</sup> Wang, X, et al., "One Minute of Marijuana Secondhand Smoke Exposure Substantially Impairs Vascular Endothelial Function". *J Am Heart Assoc.* 2016 Jul 27;5(8). pii: e003858. doi: 10.1161/JAHA.116.003858, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27464788>

<sup>iii</sup> Seth Ammerman, Sheryl Ryan, William P. Adelman. The Impact of Marijuana Policies on Youth: Clinical, Research, and Legal Update. *Pediatrics*. Volume 135, Issue 3.