



February 28, 2019
 Senate Business & General Government Committee
 Testimony in Opposition to SB 639

This Coalition, representing physicians, pediatricians, nurses, worker unions, county commissioners, and public health advocates, want to ensure the protection of Oregon’s children and youth from exposure to marijuana. We oppose SB 639, which would weaken Oregon’s strong Indoor Clean Air Act (ICAA), and other policies which would continue to make marijuana more appealing to youth.

Research indicates that second-hand marijuana smoke is not harmless. Both first-hand and second-hand marijuana smoke contains many of the same cancer-causing chemicals as tobacco smoke, and there is no evidence that ventilation of smoke within enclosed areas is effective in mitigating health effects. In fact, research from the National Institute of Health 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% drop in blood vessel function.ⁱ Smoking lounges, or cannabis cafes, and temporary events would subject workers to second-hand exposure during the whole shift.

Exemptions to the ICAA, that would allow marijuana lounges and temporary events in communities across Oregon, will potentially increase youth exposure to advertising and the promotion of marijuana products. Previous exemptions to the ICAA allowing smoke shops led to an increase in hookah lounges and the prevalence of youth hookah smoking.ⁱⁱ Research from Stanford University found that adolescents who saw ads for the benefits of marijuana were more likely to use marijuana,ⁱⁱⁱ this is important because marijuana use early in ones life is associated with greater risk of addiction and greater potential harm to brain function.^{iv} It is important that we consider the impact of our environments on our most vulnerable and take the necessary actions to protect children’s health.

To protect Oregon’s youth and workers from the harmful impacts of marijuana exposure, the organizations included in this letter urge the Oregon Legislature to oppose Senate Bill 639.

ⁱ 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>

ⁱⁱ Morris DS, Fiala SC, Pawlak R. Opportunities for Policy Interventions to Reduce Youth Hookah Smoking in the United States. Prev Chronic Dis 2012;9:120082.

ⁱⁱⁱ Maria L. Roditis, Kevin Delucchi, Audrey Chang, Bonnie Halpern-Felshe. Perceptions of social norms and exposure to pro-marijuana messages are associated with adolescent marijuana use. *Preventive Medicine*, Volume 93, Pages 171-176.

^{iv} Seth Ammerman, Sheryl Ryan, William P. Adelman. The Impact of Marijuana Policies on Youth: Clinical, Research, and Legal Update. *Pediatrics*. Volume 135, Issue 3

