



Oregon Public Health Association

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Chair Riley, Vice-Chair Girod, and committee members:

I am writing today to express the Oregon Public Health Association's opposition to Senate Bill 639.

The Oregon Public Health Association has over 475 members in nearly every county in the state. We are public health professionals representing all components of our public health system: doctors, nurses, dentists, researchers, professors, community leaders, governmental public health, students and citizens who are committed to improving the health of every Oregonian.

Senate Bill 639 would allow consumption and sale of marijuana items at temporary events as well as regulation by commission of consumption and sale of marijuana items at cannabis lounges, including licensure of premises where cannabis lounges are located.

The Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act (ICAA) protects the public and employees from exposure to any secondhand smoke or electronic device vapor (including both tobacco and marijuana). OPHA supports legislation that strengthens the ICAA, but Senate Bill 639 weakens that act by proposing to legalize consumption in indoor spaces, in effect exempting marijuana smoke from the ICAA. This would inadvertently open the door to other industries seeking exemptions.

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 addition, these bills do not address secondary inhalation health and sobriety effects by workers when working in establishments that allow or encourage recreational marijuana use. Furthermore, the addition of cannabis cafes creates an increased risk of driving under the influence, as there are no assessments to measure when an individual is "too high" to drive and no set guidelines to determine when someone should no longer be served.

Part of OPHA's mission is to advocate for policies that protect and promote the health of all Oregonians. To continue to protect the health of the public, OPHA opposes Senate Bill 639. Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Jessica Nischik-Long, MPH
Executive Director