



March 13, 2019
House Committee on Economic Development
Testimony Opposing HB 2233



Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Bonham, Vice-Chair Fahey and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development:

My name is Karen Ard and I am the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program Coordinator 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 HB 2233. 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 would expose the public to secondhand marijuana smoke exposure and potentially carve out loopholes thus weakening 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, as introduced, this bill exposes the public to the dangers of secondhand marijuana smoke. Marijuana smoke has significant amounts of heavy metals like mercury, cadmium, nickel, lead, and chromium.ⁱ 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.ⁱⁱ Ventilation systems are not enough to protect patrons and workers from the effects of secondhand smoke and vapor. HB 2233 compromises Oregon's Indoor Clean Air Act by allowing the use of cannabis 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.

Secondly, I understand there is an amendment to limit cannabis use to outdoor spaces. However, it will still allow the continued expansion of the marijuana industry to temporary events and cannabis lounges. This 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 11th graders reported that it was "very easy" to get marijuana.ⁱⁱⁱ 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.ⁱⁱⁱ Early marijuana use by teens and adolescents is associated with greater risk of addiction and greater potential harm to brain function.^{iv}

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. Also, allowing the consumption of marijuana in public places has strong potential to normalize smoking

behaviors and lead to an increase in youth initiation. 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.

Sincerely,

Karen Ard

ⁱ 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>

ⁱⁱ 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>

ⁱⁱⁱ 2017 Oregon Healthy Teens Survey

^{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.