

April 8, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Nathanson
900 Court St NE H-280
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB: 2270 – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Nathanson and Members of the House Revenue Committee:

Kaiser Permanente is pleased to be in support of HB 2270 which would increase the state's tobacco taxes by \$2.00 per pack.

We are pleased to join the broad coalition of medical and public health organizations in support of an increase in the tobacco tax, which is long overdue.

The bill will bring much needed revenue to the state coffers that will be used to support tobacco prevention and education programs, tobacco control law enforcement, and the Oregon Health Plan.

Tobacco taxes have been proven to decrease smoking. Prevention of smoking and education about the harmful effects of smoking is a priority for Kaiser Permanente. The serious, negative health effects of smoking are well known and are a costly burden to society, both in terms of dollars spent and quality of life lost. Anything we can do to restrict access and prevent young people from becoming addicted to these harmful products is worth doing.

We applaud your efforts with this legislation and urge your support of HB 2270.

Thank you,



Amy Fauver

Director, Government Relations
Kaiser Permanente Northwest Region