



To:

House Committee on Revenue
lro.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

April 11, 2019

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Findley, Vice-Chair Marsh, and Members of the House Revenue Committee:

On behalf of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), I'm writing to express our **support for HB 2270**, which will raise the tax on tobacco in Oregon, implement a tax on e-cigarettes, and appropriate funding for the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) and culturally-specific prevention and cessation programs. As a statewide, grassroots organization, we work with Asians and Pacific Islanders across the state to advance social justice. In our work, we recognize the damaging power of systemic racism and economic insecurity on an individual's health choices and outcomes.

Pacific Islanders, African Americans, and American Indians/Alaskan Natives have the highest rates of tobacco usage in Oregon. In Oregon, 1 in 4 Pacific Islanders use cigarettes, and 41% use some form of tobacco.¹ National disaggregated data show that Asian sub-populations, such as Koreans, use tobacco at similarly high rates.² These communities experience higher rates of disease and tobacco-related complications and health disparities that hinder their ability to thrive.

In addition, the tobacco industry specifically targets communities of color for marketing,³ such as by sponsoring cultural events like Lunar New Year and advertising in neighborhoods with high concentrations of people of color.⁴ In order to address the root causes of tobacco usage, it is essential that when a person chooses to quit they are met with culturally and linguistically responsive support and services to address their health needs. We strongly support that in HB 2270 a portion of the revenue generated goes to those most impacted through culturally-specific tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

¹ Oregon Health Authority, 2015-2017.

² <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6530a1.htm>

³ https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/tobacco_industry/marketing/

⁴ <https://tobaccofreeca.com/story-of-inequity/asian-pacific-islander/>



APANO supports HB 2270 as an investment in the health of our communities. I thank you for your time and consideration, and urge the House Committee on Revenue to vote in support of HB 2270.

Sincerely,
Ava Kamb
Policy Advisor
APANO