



Testimony in Support of HB 4078

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Chair Salinas and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 4078. The Oregon Nurses Association is proud to represent over 15,000 Oregon nurses working in almost every health care setting imaginable from large hospitals to small local clinics, from corrections to school based health centers, and community-based public health.

ONA members recognize the significant health and economic costs of tobacco and nicotine use which is why we have actively engaged in enacting robust public health policies around prevention and cessation. Recognizing that most tobacco and nicotine users become addicted at a young age, ONA supports a variety of policies specifically aimed at creating barriers to access and we support the World Health Organization's recommendation that e-cigarettes be regulated and legislated in the same ways as combustible cigarettes and other tobacco products.

HB 4078 makes a simple change to state law by aligning e-cigarette sale regulations to how we currently regulate cigarette and tobacco sales: by requiring a face-to-face interaction to purchase. HB 4078 bans the sale of e-cigarettes online or over the phone, helping reduce the number of underage users from being able to purchase e-cigarettes.

The policy is an important first step in regulating e-cigarettes in the same way that we regulate combustible tobacco products and will be a helpful tool in reducing youth access and exposure to nicotine products. The Oregon Health Authority has found that non-cigarette tobacco use is 80% higher than traditional cigarette use for 11th graders in Oregon¹ and youths who use electronic cigarettes are almost twice as likely to have intentions to smoke conventional cigarettes as those who had never used electronic cigarettes.²

We hope this is just the beginning of a conversation on how to best regulate tobacco and nicotine products in Oregon and encourage the legislature to pass HB 4078 this session. We also hope you continue to support and look at a comprehensive set of policies to fully address the growing public health epidemic of tobacco and nicotine use and addiction among youth in the coming months and years.

¹ OHA Tobacco Fact Sheet 2014

² National Youth Tobacco Survey, 2013. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention