



COALITION FOR A HEALTHY OREGON

February 18, 2020

RE: Support HB 4078 – Prohibit remote sale of inhalant delivery systems

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee:

The Coalition for a Healthy Oregon is committed to improving health for vulnerable Oregonians throughout our state. Our members are coordinated care organizations (CCOs) that work to deliver the right care at the right time, driving quality and access for Oregonians who receive health care services through the Oregon Health Plan. We strongly urge your support for HB 4078, a bill to ban the remote sale of inhalant delivery systems, i.e., vaping products.

We understand that improving people's health is about much more than doctor visits—it means giving people the resources and opportunities to live healthier lives. Therefore, our CCOs have spent millions of dollars investing in our communities to prevent health problems before they happen: that means helping improve people's food, housing, transportation, and education. As part of this prevention strategy, our CCOs each have programs and investment strategies that aim to address tobacco cessation.

While CCOs work to innovate and improve community health, one major factor stands in the way that could easily be addressed: tobacco and nicotine use. Reducing tobacco and nicotine use is some of the lowest hanging fruit when it comes to extending life expectancy and avoiding preventable illnesses like lung disease, heart disease, and cancer, to name a few.

It's unconscionable that Big Tobacco is profiting from the sale of vaping products to children through mail, telephone, and internet. In order to enforce the Tobacco 21 policy enacted by the legislature in 2017, we must end the loophole that allows minors to access these products.

If the Legislature does not act, a new generation of Oregonians will bear the burden of nicotine addiction. Not only is this a tragedy, but it will also cost our state money at the same time we are spending billions to improve the social determinants of health and other upstream investments in our communities.

Our children deserve to live free of nicotine and tobacco addiction. Please vote yes on HB 4078.

Sincerely,

Dan Cushing