

April 27, 2021

Letter of support for HB 2261, a ban on online sales of inhalant delivery systems and associate products.

Chair Senator Patterson, Vice Chair Senator Knopp, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

I am very concerned about the harmful effects that vaping products are having on Oregonians, especially youth.

The American Lung Association notes “Nicotine negatively impacts brain development and changes brain chemistry. Human brain development continues until the age of 25, and nicotine use during adolescence and young adulthood has been associated with lasting cognitive and behavioral impairments, including: Memory, Attention and Learning. Nicotine causes specific changes in the brain that make it more vulnerable to chronic use of illicit drugs. In high enough doses, nicotine is also a poison—children have been harmed or even died from drinking e-cigarette liquid“ <https://www.lung.org/stop-smoking/smoking-facts/nicotine.html>

A roundtable discussion was held in Bend on October 4<sup>th</sup> 2019 regarding vaping, the high rates of youth use and access. High school students who attended stated their fellow students often purchase flavored vaping products on line and would resell to other students.

Currently, it is possible for youth under 21 years of age to purchase inhalant delivery system devices and products on line due to no regulation or enforcement of online sales. The youth of our community and state are at greater health risks related to inhalant delivery system products.

Therefore, as a citizen of Deschutes County, and a member of Shared Future Coalition, and Deschutes County Public Health Advisory Board, and a community member who has been working to reduce nicotine exposure among our youth, please help me keep our youth healthy and vote in favor of HB 2661 a ban on online sales of inhalant delivery systems and associate products.

David Huntley, MPH MS