



**American
Heart
Association.**

To: House Governance Committee

Date: February 9, 2021

Re: HB 2640

Representative Wilde and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Christina Bodamer and I am the Oregon Government Relations Director for the American Heart Association.

For decades, tobacco control advocacy has been a priority of the American Heart Association and as such we oppose any weakening of the clean indoor air act. Oregon's Indoor Clean Air Act (ICAA) protects nearly every Oregonian from the health risks of secondhand smoke. The ICAA prohibits smoking in the workplace and within 10 feet of all entrances, exits and accessibility ramps that lead to and from an entrance or exit, windows that open and air-intake vents. Allowing alcohol consumption in a smoke shop would undo years of work on smoke-free laws.

The scientific evidence is clear: there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke causes serious diseases and premature death among nonsmokers. That is why all workplaces and public places, including restaurants, bars and casinos should be smoke-free. Everyone should have the right to breathe clean air.

Research shows that smoking bans lead to marked reductions in cardiovascular incidents. Secondhand smoke causes heart disease, cancer, lung disease and other illnesses to both children and adults who do not smoke. Studies suggest that even brief exposure to second-hand smoke can cause damage. Evidence shows immediate adverse effects on heart function, blood platelets, inflammation, and the vascular system with exposure.

And long-term nonsmokers who are exposed to second-hand smoke have an increased risk of developing heart disease by 25–30% and an increased risk for stroke of 20–30% because of a choice someone else is making. There is even preliminary research that suggest an association between dementia syndromes in adults and exposure to secondhand smoke.

Over a decade ago Oregon decided that bars would no longer allow smoking HB 2640 may be a reverse of the order of words, but has the exact same effect, turning smoke shops into bars. Oregon has provided its citizens with protections against secondhand smoke for over a decade and the American Heart Association opposes any efforts to change that. Oregon has a robust indoor clean air act that is worth protecting, I urge you to vote no on.