

March 1, 2021



Oregon Progressive Party Independent Party of Oregon

Position on Bills at 2021 Session of Oregon Legislature:

Dear Committee: **SB 587: Support**

The Oregon Progressive Party (OPP) and Independent Party of Oregon (IPO) support this bill, which would require that retailers of tobacco products and inhalant delivery systems obtain licenses from the Department of Revenue. More important, it would enable the Oregon Health Authority to impose civil penalty for violation of certain state public health and safety laws related to tobacco products and inhalant delivery systems and allow local public health authorities to enforce local standards for regulation of sale of tobacco products and inhalant delivery systems.

Unfortunately, it also would prohibit any city or local public health authority from prohibiting colocation of retailer of tobacco products or inhalant delivery systems with a pharmacy, thereby providing greater access to tobacco and vaping products to minors.

Smoking and vaping are huge public health menaces. The Oregon Health Authority reported in 2020: "Tobacco use affects all Oregonians. Tobacco use is the number-one cause of preventable death and disease in Oregon. Each year, tobacco use kills nearly 8,000 Oregonians (Table 2.1) and costs almost \$3 billion in medical expenses and lost productivity (Table 2.4). Minors become addicted to nicotine before their brains are sufficiently developed to understand the risks. Vaping is sucking a brew of unidentified chemicals into the lungs and the extremely sensitive tissues therein. The vaping industry needs to hook minors on the addictive qualities of the nicotine (and whatever else is in the fluids) before the minors grow up and rationally reject such reckless behavior.



Table 2.1. Leading causes of preventable death, Oregon, 2018

Cause of preventable death	Estimated number of deaths
Tobacco use	7800
Obesity, poor diet, and physical inactivity	2400
Alcohol use	1900
Illicit drug use	700
Motor vehicles*	500
Firearms	500
Influenza & pneumonia	500

*Includes alcohol-related crashes

Source: Source: Oregon Center for Health Statistics, Death data. Unpublished data.

Table 2.2. Underlying causes of tobacco-related deaths, Oregon, 2018

Cause of death	Number of deaths	Tobacco-related deaths (%)
Cancers	2238	29
Cardiovascular diseases	1941	25
Respiratory diseases	1570	20
Other	2010	26
Total tobacco-related deaths	7759	100

Source: Oregon Center for Health Statistics, Death data. Unpublished data.

Oregon Progressive Party

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