



Salem Health
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January 28, 2022

The Honourable Rachel Prusak, Chair
House Committee on Health Care

Delivered electronically to: rep.rachelprusak@oregonlegislature.gov and
rep.sherischouten@oregonlegislature.gov

Chair Prusak and members of the House Health Care Committee:

Salem Health supports HB 4101 as an important policy tool for improving the public's health. Increasing the smoking buffer from 10 to 25 feet has the potential to save lives.

Tobacco use is a leading cause of death and disease in Oregon. It is also a major risk factor for developing chronic diseases like cardiovascular disease, asthma, and diabetes. Tobacco use can make it harder for patients to manage these conditions and more difficult to weather COVID-19.

Salem Health is a place of healing. Our campuses have been smoke-free since 2014. Our hospitals and providers are on the front lines of acute patient care and consequently witness people with chronic diseases experiencing limitations in function, health, activity, and work. We support efforts to reduce the burden of tobacco in Oregon communities. Increasing the smoking buffer is a common sense policy to reduce the impact of second-hand smoke in the lives of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ralph Yates, DO".

Ralph Yates, DO
Chief Medical Officer
Salem Health

