



**To: Members of the House Committee on Health Care**

**From: State Representative Maxine Dexter, M.D., House District 33**

**Date: February 4, 2022**

**Subject: HB 4101**

Chair Prusak, Vice-Chairs Hayden and Salinas, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Dr. Maxine Dexter, State Representative for House District 33, encompassing NW Portland and NE Washington County on the indigenous lands of the Cowlitz, Clackamas, and Grand Ronde. I am grateful for this opportunity today to request your full support for HB 4101, the smoking distance bill.

As a practicing pulmonologist, it is my job to address the health impacts of fume and smoke exposure on people's respiratory systems. It is clear that even those who have never smoked a cigarette can suffer as a result of exposure to cigarette smoke, and this is especially true for those who have asthma. Simply walking past someone who is smoking and thereby inhaling a small amount of smoke can trigger an asthma exacerbation, also known as an "attack", which is a potentially serious medical issue that oftentimes needs immediate treatment with an inhaler or more aggressive interventions. Smoke and particulate matter in the air is not something a person can avoid, they are exposed simply by breathing. By increasing the distance from a public building's entrance that people must go to smoke, it is possible to decrease the likelihood that people who work in and use these buildings will be exposed to second-hand cigarette smoke. Such a change is in the public's health interest and it is time for Oregon to move the acceptable distance for smoking to 25 feet.

Our healthcare sector and legislative bodies have long recognized the need to limit public exposure to tobacco smoke. By continuing to protect the members of the public who choose to refrain from smoking, we can help them improve their health outcomes.

Thank you for your time today and your consideration of the health of our citizens. Please support HB 4101 with a *do pass recommendation*.

Sincerely,

Representative Maxine Dexter, M.D.

House District 33 (NW Portland and NE Washington County)