



To: House Committee on Health Care
From: Paige Spence, Washington County Government Relations Manager
Date: February 7, 2022
Re: Support for HB 4101

Dear Chair Prusak, Vice-Chairs Hayden and Salinas, and Committee Members:

Washington County thanks the sponsors and supports HB 4101. This is an important measure to address involuntary exposure to toxic secondhand smoke and vapor.

Scientific evidence has shown that exposure to secondhand smoke has no risk-free level. The U.S. Surgeon General determined that secondhand smoke causes premature death and disease in both non-smoking adults and children¹. Secondhand smoke exposure in adults has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer^{1,2}. Secondhand smoke exposure in children can cause ear infections, asthma attacks and other respiratory symptoms^{1,2}. Research has also shown that levels of secondhand smoke outdoors can appear just as great or even greater than indoor secondhand smoke when smoking is happening close by³. Secondhand aerosol is also detrimental, with e-cigarette aerosol containing cancer causing agents and heavy metals⁴.

A simple extension of Oregon's outdoor smoking buffers from the current 10 to an increase of 25 feet would create healthier workspaces and other public buildings. This change is also in line with federal building policy: Effective June 19, 2009, smoking is prohibited in courtyards and within 25 feet of doorways and air intake ducts on outdoor space under the jurisdiction, custody or control of the U.S. Government Services Administration.⁵ Passing HB 4101 is an important step in creating healthy environments for all of our community members.

Thank you for considering this bill and Washington County's testimony.

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¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014

² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *A Report of the Surgeon General: How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: What It Means to You*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2010

³ Klepeis NE, Ott WR, Switzer P. (2007) Real-time Measurement of Outdoor Tobacco Smoke Particles. *Journal of Air Waste Manag Assoc.* 2007; May; 57 (5): 522-34

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office on Smoking and Health. (2021). *Summary of Scientific Evidence: Secondhand Smoke Exposure and the Impact of Smokefree Policies*

⁵ § 102-74.330