



February 14, 2023
Support HB 2128

Good morning, Chair Kropf and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Sarah Lochner, I use she/her pronouns, I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO) – the statewide association for local public health.

I am here today in strong support of HB 2128. Local public health has been in a long standing battle against tobacco use, as **cigarette smoking** is still the leading cause of preventable death in the United States – causing more than 480,000 deaths each year in the United States alone. This is nearly one in five deaths. In fact, my childhood friend's dad died just a few weeks ago from a short battle with lung cancer after being a heavy smoker for years.

And we know that tobacco manufacturers have made a killing, literally and figuratively.

As such, they pay into certain accounts to somewhat mitigate the harm their products cause.

But, if we cannot access those funds, they cannot help.

This bill will give Oregon access to the funds paid by the non-TMSA manufacturers. Right now, the funds are slated to go entirely toward the Medicaid program.

While this will certainly help address the harm caused by tobacco, it will not help to address the root of the problem. As such, we strongly recommend





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of Oregon's 33 local public health
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the committee support an amendment to put 10% of the funds toward Local Public Health Tobacco Prevention efforts.

Prevention efforts have never been well funded, and we know that prevention works. And by giving the money to local public health, you ensure that every community in Oregon will reap the benefits. With teenage vaping everywhere you look, we need to ramp up our efforts to ensure we do not have another generation of smokers with increased health care costs.

Thank you for considering our request; CLHO does support this bill.

