

Submitter: Debra Porta

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3090

To Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

My name is Debra Porta and I am Executive Director for Pride Northwest, Inc., a 501c3 nonprofit organization serving Oregon's LGBTQIA2S+ community. As an organization, Pride Northwest very rarely takes a position on legislation. In this exceptional case, I am writing in support of House Bill 3090.

The adverse effects of the long history of targeting LGBTQIA2S+ people-including our young people-on the part of the tobacco industry, is well-documented. Discriminatory tactics that normalized smoking and linked the LGBTQIA2S+ community and tobacco use, have benefitted the tobacco industry while leading to higher smoking rates among LGBTQ+ populations. In turn, these higher rates result in our people being overly represented when it comes to the adverse impact of tobacco products. We are less healthy and we die younger than the larger community, and that path often starts at an early age. Tobacco products clearly designed to appeal to young people, are dangerous to our community, both now and in the future. I strongly encourage the passage of HB 3090 and the prohibition against selling, distributing, attempting to sell, and allowing the sale of flavored tobacco products or inhalant delivery systems in Oregon.

Thank you,

Debra