



March 21, 2023

To: Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Emerson Hamlin, Political Organizer, Oregon Nurses Association

Re: Support for 3090

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). ONA is a nurses union and professional association representing over 15,000 health care workers and providers, including registered nurses, advanced practice nurses, and allied health workers. Our members work in urban and rural hospitals, clinics, school-based health centers, home health, and county health departments across Oregon. I am writing today to express ONA's support for the passage of HB 3090, the Preventing Nicotine Addiction bill.

According to the Oregon Tobacco Prevention and Education Program, tobacco use is the number-one cause of preventable death and disease in Oregon.¹ In addition to the health costs that are the result of tobacco use, tobacco also has a measurable financial impact: Oregonians spend \$1.54 billion dollars annually on health care costs directly related to smoking, not including costs related to secondhand smoke exposure.² Worse, these costs are not evenly distributed among all people: instead, members of marginalized communities disproportionately bear the burden, as tobacco companies have targeted their marketing towards our Black, African American, and LGBTQ+ community members.

Young people are also at increased risk: nearly 9 out of 10 adults who smoke started before the age of 18, and nearly all started by age 26.³ Unfortunately, kids are increasingly targeted by tobacco companies, via flavored tobacco products, which are often available in candy and fruit flavors. This is dangerous because nicotine poses a real risk to young people. Even short-term use in youth can harm brain development and can worsen attention, mood, and impulse control.⁴

¹ *Oregon Tobacco Facts*. Oregon Health Authority : Oregon Tobacco Facts : Tobacco Prevention : State of Oregon. (n.d.). Retrieved March 20, 2023, from

[https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/preventionwellness/tobaccoprevention/pages/oregon-tobacco-facts.aspx#:~:text=However%2C%20tobacco%20use%20remains%20the,each%20year%20\(Table%202.2\).](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/preventionwellness/tobaccoprevention/pages/oregon-tobacco-facts.aspx#:~:text=However%2C%20tobacco%20use%20remains%20the,each%20year%20(Table%202.2).)

² Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The Toll of Tobacco in Oregon. Retrieved from

https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts_issues/toll_us/oregon

³ Surgeon General's Report on Smoking & Health (n.d.) *Smoking and Youth*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/sgr/50th-anniversary/pdfs/fs_smoking_youth_508.pdf

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, November 10). *Quick facts on the risks of e-cigarettes for kids, teens, and young adults*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved March 20, 2023, from

https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/Quick-Facts-on-the-Risks-of-E-cigarettes-for-Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults.html#:~:text=Nicotine%20can%20harm%20the%20developing%20adolescent%20brain.&text=The%20brain%20keeps%20developing%20until,%2C%20mood%2C%20and%20impulse%20control.



Long term use can lead to cancer, heart disease, and lung disease.⁵ Today, 68,000 Oregon kids under 18 will die prematurely due to smoking, unless smoking rates decline.⁶

Passing HB 3090, which will end the sale of flavored tobacco products across the state, is critical in reducing tobacco use and its associated health impacts. It is through passing measures like HB 3090 that we can protect the health of our kids and marginalized communities. ONA urge a yes vote. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Emerson Hamlin

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021, October 29). Health effects of cigarette smoking. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved March 20, 2023, from https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/health_effects/effects_cig_smoking/index.htm#

⁶ The Health Consequences of Smoking: 50 Years of Progress. A Report of the Surgeon General, 2014.

18765 SW Boones Ferry Road, Suite 200 · Tualatin, OR 97062 · Phone: 503-293-0011 · Fax: 503-293-0013

Email: ona@oregonrn.org · Web: www.OregonRN.org

ONA is an affiliate of the American Nurses Association, AFT and AFL-CIO