

Submitter: Debra Thorpe

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3090

Prohibition did not work for liquor, it did not work for marijuana and it will not work for tobacco.

There will always be a black market for these products and Oregon only stands to lose millions by prohibiting these products from the adult population of our State.

Oregon will lose tobacco revenue from sales,

Oregon will lose income taxes from businesses that close because the tobacco sales are one of their primary products, employees losing their jobs, thus the loss of employee taxes.

Take a look at New York and how much they estimate is now black market because of raising taxes on tobacco so much that people are willing to find and buy black market, 60.9%!!! Now take that percentage and apply it to Oregon's tobacco tax revenue.... what will then be done to replace that revenue???

I have been a Liquor Agent for almost 32 years and have a 100% compliance on tobacco and liquor sales. We take both liquor and tobacco sales responsibility very seriously.

Youth smoking is at approximately 1.6% and declining and Menthol cigarette use by minors is down to .08%. Education and sales prevention is working!

Please consider focusing on enforcing the tobacco license sales compliance to underage individuals and get rid of the retailers that give the rest of us responsible retailers a bad rap!

We share the goal of keeping kids from using tobacco products! Keep focusing and funding education, cessation support, and underage prevention.

Sincerely,

Debra M. Thorpe