

Submitter: Warren Wittig

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4120

I am writing to urge your support for HB 4120, which will allow housing providers to adopt non-smoking policies in multifamily housing. As a regional property manager, I have overseen thousands of units in Oregon and have witnessed firsthand the effect that smoking has on neighbors within the community.

My support of this bill goes far beyond the negative impacts smoking has on a landlord. The most impacted are those who are forced to live in proximity. Particularly, those who are pregnant or suffer from respiratory issues. Whether smoking indoors or out, the odor easily penetrates neighboring units and is severely disruptive to daily life. Without a clear path to adopt non-smoking policies, these affected neighbors carry the burden of relocation. That is assuming they have the means to relocate. Oftentimes, those affected are not in a financial position to relocate, which results in them living in an environment that is unhealthy and unsafe.

For the health and safety of all Oregonians, smoking is banned in and around all public establishments. It is difficult to justify an exception for the one place where people expect to feel the most safe.