House Health Care Committee Chair Greenlick and Committee Members

February 5, 2015

Dear Chair Greenlick and House Health Care Committee Members,

I am writing this letter to you in support of HB 2546, which prohibits the sale of e-cigarettes to minors.

Options Counseling and Family Services provides home- and community-based interventions to thousands of children, adults and families in eleven Oregon counties. Options' employees provide behavioral health services to individuals with diagnoses mental illness. They respond to referrals from DHS/Child Welfare and DHS/Self-Sufficiency to intervene with at-risk families so that Oregon's children have safe homes that support their health and well-being. The agency is also involved in several pilot projects and grant-funded programs that focus on positive attachment and healthy parenting practices.

There have been countless benefits with the advancement of technology, but sometimes these developments move forward before the costs can be considered. E-cigarettes belong in that category. To promote the best possible outcomes for Oregon's children, it is critical to consider the health risks of e-cigarettes, including the likelihood of future tobacco use. The liquid nicotine used in the devices, which comes in flavors such as bubblegum and fruit flavors, is being blamed for a growing number of poisonings. E-cigarettes have not been thoroughly evaluated in scientific studies, therefore very little data exist on their safety.

In addition to my work at Options, I am also the mother of four children and the grandmother of seven. I realize that this legislation won't be able to prevent minors from obtaining e-cigarettes altogether as laws can be skirted or broken. However, I want to be among those who take a stand for the future health of Oregon's youth and urge you to support HB 2546.

Respectfully,

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cc: Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs