



## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Rep. John Lively, Chair, House Committee on Economic Development  
Rep. Daniel Bonham, Vice Chair, House Committee on Economic Development  
Rep. Julie Fahey, Vice Chair, House Committee on Economic Development  
Members of the House Committee on Economic Development

From: Trevor Beltz, Associate Director of Government Relations

Date: March 13, 2019

Re: HB 2233

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The Oregon Medical Association represents over 8,000 physicians, physician assistants, and medical and physician assistant students in Oregon, and is concerned about the negative impacts HB 2233 will have on our members' vision of a healthy Oregon. We stand behind policy that supports healthy individuals, systems and environments. We cannot support HB 2233.

HB 2233 raises concerns about employee rights to clean air, normalization of youth use of cannabis, and the inability of potential temporary events and cannabis lounge licensees to measure consumption and impairment of attendees in a safe and consistent manner.

The Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act (ICAA) protects the public, venue patrons, and employees from risks associated with exposure to second-hand smoke by prohibiting smoking or vaping indoors where people work, public places, and within 10 feet of all entrances, exits, ramps to an entrance or exit, windows that open, and air-intake vents. Provisions contained within HB 2233 would expose employees and Oregonians to harmful second-hand smoke. Research indicates that second-hand cannabis smoke is not harmless; both first-hand and second-hand cannabis smoke contains many of the same cancer-causing chemicals as tobacco smoke.<sup>i</sup> A clinical guidelines workgroup, established through HB 4014 (2016), strongly opposed smoking cannabis as a method of delivery "because of harms associated with inhaling any kind of smoke."<sup>ii</sup>

As advocates for adolescent health, the OMA has an obligation to protect the health and well-being of youth and work to ensure the protection of Oregon's youth from exposure to cannabis. The most recent Oregon Healthy Teens Survey shows that the perception of harm from cannabis is decreasing and ease of access is increasing among Oregon's teens.<sup>iii</sup> Evidence shows that exposure to cannabis in early adolescence puts youth at greater risk of addiction and may reduce cognitive functions, including lower IQ.<sup>iv</sup> Normalizing the use of cannabis through social consumption sends the wrong message to our youth and increases the likelihood they will seek out cannabis. We should not be expanding access to cannabis before we have adequately addressed, and put into place, prevention-based policies and programs.

A unique challenge to cannabis is measuring impairment. Unlike alcohol, there is not a standard measurement and way to test for impairment. Until this issue is addressed and “impairment” is better defined, it would be irresponsible to promote public consumption. Public consumption increases the risk for accident and injury to others and this bill does not address the responsibility and liability of monitoring impairment when serving cannabis.

Furthermore, the recent Secretary of State Audit on the regulation of marijuana cited a lack of resources to properly regulate the current license types under the OLCC; increasing the number of licensees requiring compliance testing and inspections only exacerbates the problem. Many of the challenges about how to regulate cannabis and handle the current marketplace have not yet been answered and this is where focus should be at this time.

The OMA urges your opposition to HB 2233.

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<sup>i</sup> Wang X, Derakhshandeh R, Liu J, Narayan S, Nabavizadeh P, Le S, Danforth OM, Pinnamaneni K, Rodriguez HJ, Luu E, Sievers RE, Schick SF, Glantz SA, Springer ML. One minute of cannabis secondhand smoke exposure substantially impairs vascular endothelial function. *J Am Heart Assoc.* 2016;5:e003858 doi: 10.1161/JAHA.116.003858

<sup>ii</sup> <http://public.health.oregon.gov/PreventionWellness/cannabis/Documents/OHA-9262-Attending-Physician-Guidelines.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup>

[https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/SURVEYS/OREGONHEALTHYTEENS/Documents/2017/2017\\_OHT\\_State\\_Report.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/SURVEYS/OREGONHEALTHYTEENS/Documents/2017/2017_OHT_State_Report.pdf)

<sup>iv</sup> Lisdahl, K. M., Wright, N. E., Medina-Kirchner, C., Maple, K. E., & Shollenbarger, S. (2014). Considering cannabis: the effects of regular cannabis use on neurocognition in adolescents and young adults. *Current Addiction Reports*, 1(2), 144-156.