



Feb. 3, 2020

Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

**Re: HB 4078, inhalant delivery systems**

Chair Salinas and members of the House Committee on Health Care:

Salem Health supports HB 4078 as another tool to combat nicotine addiction and smoking, particularly among school-age children. HB 4078 bans the remote sale of electronic cigarettes, making it more difficult for someone under the legal age from acquiring a vaping device.

Over the last few months, we have seen the potentially devastating impact vaping can have on an individual's near-term health. According to the Centers for Disease Control, there have been 2,711 hospitalizations due to vaping as of Jan. 1, 2020. Unfortunately, more and more young people are picking up the habit.

In addition to immediate health impacts, vaping introduce the habits of nicotine addiction, and can lead to the use of combustible cigarettes. As a local health system, Salem Health providers see firsthand the impact that nicotine addiction in all its forms can have over the course of a life. The chronic diseases stemming from nicotine addiction limit an individual's function, health, activity, and work. It reduces the quality of their lives as well as the lives of their families.

Reducing the rate of nicotine addiction is crucial to creating healthier communities and lowering the cost of health care. HB 4078 is another way to reduce smoking and its ill-effects in our state. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ralph Yates", written over a white background.

Ralph Yates, DO  
Chief Medical Officer  
Salem Health