



Oregon Pediatric Society

A Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Incorporated in Oregon

DATE: February 18 2020

TO: The Honorable Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
Chair of the Senate Committee on Health Care

FROM: James A. Bishara, MD, FAAP
Member of the Oregon Pediatric Society

SUBJECT: HB 4078 Ban on Online Vaping Sales

The Oregon Pediatric Society (OPS) is the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Our membership is committed to improving and protecting the health and well-being of all children in Oregon. For the record, my name is Dr. James Bishara. I am a pediatric cardiologist at OHSU's Doernbecher Children's Hospital practicing in Salem and a member of the Oregon Pediatric Society (OPS). OPS endorses HB 4078, which would ban online and remote sales of vaping products.

OPS supports the intent of this bill and other measures that will reduce underage access to vaping products, including a vaping flavors ban and retail tobacco licensure. OPS member Dr. Peter Reed serves on the Governor's Vaping Task Force; we look forward to further recommendations from that task force that address the epidemic of vaping-related illness and youth vaping in Oregon.

Online sales of vaping products are estimated to account for about 7 percent of vaping products purchased by underage users. There have been several investigations into e-cigarette sales to minors. They have overwhelmingly shown that youth can successfully buy and receive age restricted e-cigarettes or vaping products with a credit card or money order in more than 90 percent of attempts. A quick search of online forums confirms that there is virtually no barrier to online purchasing of age restricted e-cigarette and vaping products with "how to" guides helping minors improve their already high chance of success.

The dangers of tobacco related products are well documented. Ninety-five percent of nicotine users begin before age 21. Adolescents are more likely to become addicted to nicotine due to the powerful effect of nicotine on their developing brain. The accelerated use of e-cigarettes and vaping are alarming. In a 2019 survey, more than 27% of high school students and more than 10% of middle school students admitted to using e-cigarettes. This is a significant increase from 2018 where use was reported as 20 percent and 5 percent, respectively. Adolescents and young adults who use e-cigarettes are 3.6 times more likely to use tobacco.

E-cigarettes and vaping products contain known toxicant and cancer-causing chemicals such as aldehydes, nitrosamines, tobacco alkaloids, heavy metals such as lead, manganese, nickel and tin, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. These are known respiratory irritants which cause cough, wheeze and asthma exacerbations. Diacetyl is a commonly used flavoring agent that is known to cause bronchiolitis obliterans and cancer. There are no long term studies on the safety of vaping. It is entirely reasonable to believe that these pose serious health risks with chronic use.



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HB 4078 addresses an important problem with the teen vaping epidemic and will provide Oregon an important tool in helping reduce youth access to and use of e-cigarettes and vaping products. We encourage members of this committee and the Oregon legislature to vote yes.