



Memorandum

To: Sen. Monnes Anderson, Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care
Sen. Linthicum, Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care
Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care

From: Danielle Sobel, OPCA State and Federal Policy Director
Marty Carty, OPCA Policy Senior Manager

Date: February 18, 2020

Re: Support for HB 4078 as Introduced

On behalf of the Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA), we respectfully request your support for HB 4078 as introduced. OPCA is a non-profit organization, with a mission to support Oregon's 32 community health centers, also known as federally qualified health centers, in leading the transformation of primary care to achieve health equity for all. Community health centers deliver integrated primary care, including dental and behavioral health services, to over **433,000 Oregonians annually**. Community health centers are providers within the CCO networks, providing care to Oregon's underserved populations, including **one in four Oregon Health Plan members**.

Smoking is the number one cause of preventable death in Oregon and providers and care teams see firsthand how smoking related illnesses impact patients and their families. Oregon's community health centers serve patients who tobacco companies have targeted for decades, e.g., communities of color, tribes, low-income, and LGBTQ communities. And now, tobacco companies are marketing directly to Oregon's youth through nicotine-filled e-cigarette devices. Since 2017, the number of middle school aged kids who say they have tried an e-cigarette has increased by 48 percent, effectively creating a whole new generation of addicted smokers and leading to downstream health complications.

We must prevent Oregon's youth from buying vaping products in any venue. HB 4078 ensures all retailers are in compliance with Tobacco 21 – A bipartisan policy the 2017 Oregon legislature passed, increasing the minimum age to purchase tobacco and vaping products. Oregon law already forbids mail, telephone or internet sales of other tobacco products, yet vaping products remain available to Oregon's youth through these remote options. It is critical that we take a comprehensive approach to reduce youth access to tobacco products.

We urge your support of HB 4078 as introduced as the next step in reducing poor health outcomes, increased cost to the healthcare system, and health disparities adversely affecting groups of people who have systematically experienced greater social or economic obstacles to health.

Oregon Primary Care Association
Leading the transformation of care to achieve health equity for all