



Health Department

March 23, 2021

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE - Remote F
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 2261 - Prohibits remote sales of inhalant delivery systems.

Chair Prusak, Vice-Chairs Hayden and Salinas, and members of the Committee, my name is Jessica Guernsey and I am the Local Public Health Administrator and Public Health Director for Multnomah County Health Department. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2261.

This bill improves the protections around remote sales of tobacco products in Oregon by defining the minimum sales age, inhalants delivery system, distributor, retailer, and consumer. A key strategy to reducing youth use of inhalant delivery systems (e-cigarettes), is by making it harder for youth to buy these products illegally. Unfortunately this issue became a reality in my family. My son, at the time 15 years old, was able to obtain an inhalant delivery device online. And even though I work in Public Health and know how prevalent and easy it is for young people to obtain these devices, when my son walked through how he was able to do this, I was shocked. It was an instructive moment for me to say the least.

This bill should reduce access to these products - particularly for youth, thereby reducing the number of community members suffering from the related leading causes of death. While federal and Oregon law currently bans online sales of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco, there is no similar restriction for inhalant delivery systems. It is important that we bring inhalant delivery systems regulations in line with that of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco, and ultimately help keep these products out of the hands of our youth.

This bill reflects the work of the Governor's Vaping Public Health Workgroup; particularly the Workgroup's recommendations for both legislative and administrative actions that would help build a coordinated state vaping strategy. That effort was spurred by a concerning number of Vaping Use-Associated Lung Injury (EVALI) cases beginning in the summer of 2019 and the increased use of vape products by Oregon's youth. The

recommendations represent the best or most promising practices reviewed by the Workgroup. The Workgroup recommended in August 2020 that online sales of inhalant delivery systems be prohibited and only face-to-face sale of these products be allowed. Face-to-face sales promote greater compliance with the minimum legal sales age law of selling tobacco and nicotine products only to those customers age 21 and above.

It is time that we bring inhalant delivery systems regulations in line and help keep these products out of the hands of our youth.

Thank you for your time and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you,

Jessica Guernsey
Public Health Director
Multnomah County Health Department