



MEMORANDUM

To: Chair, Senator Patterson
Vice Chair, Senator Knopp
Members of the Senate Health Care Committee

From : Ivy Jones, Associate Government Relations Director

Date: March 1, 2021

Re: Support SB 587

The Oregon Medical Association is writing today in support of SB 587 with the –1 amendment regarding tobacco retail licensure. Oregon is one of thirteen states without a statewide licensure, and we believe it is time we create one. Many local jurisdictions have already taken the initiative to create a license in Oregon and this bill would allow those programs to be grandfathered in.

Our providers witness the horrible effects of tobacco use and the burden it puts on our health care system. The Oregon Health Authority reported a 77% increase in vaping products amongst 11th graders. While Oregon has taken great steps towards prevention and treatment, we still have more work to do. The burden that tobacco puts on our health care system is astronomical and anyway we can work to change that is important.

With the recent passage of ballot measure 108, which increased existing tobacco taxes and initiated an e-cigarette tax, TRL is the next logical step to help enforce the tax and hold retailers accountable to existing laws. Through the passage of this legislation, we will have a statewide tracking system for retailers of tobacco and e-cigarette products. This is important because we currently have no way of tracking e-cigarette retailers.

Passing of SB 587 with the –1 amendment is the next step in Oregon’s effort to prevent and reduce the use of tobacco, especially in our youth and young adults. SB 587 will work to hold retailers accountable and create a statewide program, while also allowing for local jurisdictions to have flexibility. This bill grandfathers current TRL programs while creating standards for the rest of the state. The Oregon Medical Association supports SB 587 with the –1 amendment.