

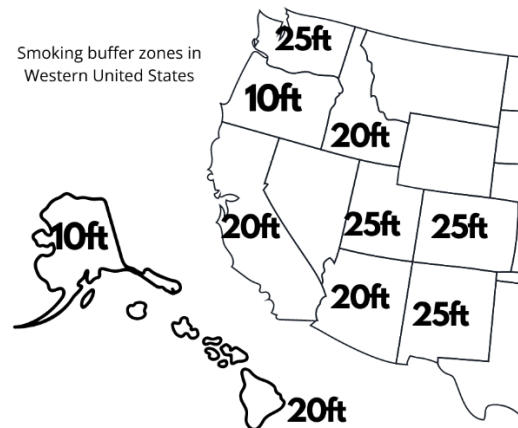
INCREASING PROTECTIONS FROM SECONDHAND SMOKE – HB 4101 (2022)

Objective: Reduce secondhand smoke exposure and improve health equity by increasing the buffer distance, from 10ft to 25ft, where smoking is not allowed under the Indoor Clean Air Act.

Importance of Buffer Zones

As illustrated below, exposure to harmful particles in secondhand smoke increases exponentially with closer proximity to a smoker.¹

Oregon's 10ft no-smoking buffer is the third-smallest among the many U.S. states and territories that prohibit smoking in specified spaces. Moving to a 25ft buffer is a science-based action that recognizes protecting public health is as important to Oregonians as those elsewhere.



Impacts of Secondhand Smoke

With over 7,000 chemicals, including known toxins and carcinogens,² secondhand smoke causes 7,300 deaths from lung cancer and over 33,000 deaths from heart disease each year.³ Between 1964-2014, the U.S. Surgeon General reported that 2.5 million Americans died from exposure.⁴



Public Health Equity

Research shows that 41% of children (ages 3-11) are exposed to secondhand smoke, with children in multi-unit housing at heightened risk.⁵ People of color are also more likely to be exposed, with 47% of Black Americans facing exposure to secondhand smoke, more than double the risk for white Americans.⁶ In addition, exposure is significantly higher for those below the federal poverty level (47.9%) compared to those above it (21.2%).⁷

Economic Context

As documented by the Centers for Disease Control, evidence from peer-reviewed studies and objective measures such as taxable sales revenue and employment levels show that smoke-free policies do not have an adverse economic impact on the hospitality industry, and often have positive effects on businesses.⁸

OREGON STATE REPRESENTATIVE SCHOUTEN, HOUSE DISTRICT 27

Coalition of Support



American Heart Association.



Citations

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4. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General. 2014.
5. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21149434/>
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