

Memorandum

To: Chair Prusak, Vice Chair Salinas, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the House Committee on Health Care

From: Marty Carty, Government Affairs Director, Oregon Primary Care Association

Date: February 4, 2022

Re: Support HB 4101

OPCA is a non-profit organization with a mission to support Oregon's 34 community health centers, also known as federally qualified health centers, in leading the transformation of primary care to achieve health equity for all. Health centers deliver integrated primary, oral and behavioral health care services to over **466,000 Oregonians annually**. Community health centers are providers within the CCO networks, providing care to some of Oregon's most vulnerable populations, including **one in six Oregon Health Plan members**.

Smoking is the number one cause of preventable death¹ in Oregon and providers and care teams see firsthand how smoking related illnesses impact patients and their families. Primary care providers care for patients who have never used a tobacco product yet suffer from preventable illness and death due to the effects of secondhand smoke. It causes or worsens disease in kids and adults who don't even smoke — asthma, lung cancer, heart disease, stroke, bronchitis and pneumonia, to name a few.² And it kills them, too: An estimated 750 Oregonians die from breathing secondhand smoke each year.³

Secondhand smoke is by its very nature an involuntary exposure and most nonsmokers do not want to breath tobacco smoke. ⁴The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Breathing even a little secondhand smoke can be harmful. Oregon's community health centers strongly support a bill which reduces secondhand smoke exposure for Oregonians and we believe this policy will reduce those involuntary exposures.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 4101 and we respectfully urge committee members to join us in our support.

1. Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division. *Oregon Tobacco Facts*. Oregon Health Authority: Oregon Tobacco Facts: Tobacco Prevention: State of Oregon. Retrieved February 1, 2022, from <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/preventionwellness/tobaccoprevention/pages/oregon-tobacco-facts.aspx>, Section 2, Table 2.1
2. Oregon Health Authority, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention. Unpublished data.
And
Oregon Health Authority, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease. (2016). *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance (BRFSS)*. Unpublished data.
3. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (2012, April). *Harmful and potentially harmful constituents in tobacco products and tobacco smoke: Established list*. Retrieved from <https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/rules-regulations-and-guidance/harmful-and-potentially-harmful-constituents-tobacco-products-and-tobacco-smoke-established-list>
And
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion; Office on Smoking and Health. (2010). *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking-Attributable Disease: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta (GA): Authors. doi.org/10.1037/e590462011-001
4. Centers for Disease Control. (n.d.). *How to protect you and your loved ones from secondhand smoke*. Retrieved February 1, 2022, from https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/sgr/2006/pdfs/protect-from-shs.pdf