



February 8, 2022

Testimony in Support of HB 4101

Chair Prusak and Members of the Committee,

I am writing testimony today in favor of HB 4101, on behalf of the Oregon Society of Physician Assistants (OSPA). This legislation would extend the smoking distance from public places from 10 feet to 25 feet and would have an overall positive impact on the health of the public.

As health care providers, we know firsthand the negative consequences that smoking can have on an individual's health. We also know that there is a substantial health risk related to secondhand smoke. By extending the distance from public places at which someone may smoke or vape, the Oregon Legislature has an opportunity to reduce the general public's exposure to unnecessary and unsafe secondhand smoke.

Tobacco use is responsible for countless deaths every year and contributes to numerous chronic health conditions like heart disease, diabetes, COPD, and others. Unfortunately, secondhand smoke can also lead to many of these conditions. In addition, children are especially susceptible to the development of lung diseases, such as asthma, when exposed to tobacco products.

OSPA feels that HB 4101 is common sense legislation that will have an overall positive effect on the health of Oregonians, young and old. One of our dedicated OSPA members, Russell Wimmer, has also submitted written [testimony](#) in support of this legislation, expressing his support. Russell provides background from his lived experience as a medical provider dealing with public health inequity. We hope that you take Russell's perspective into consideration as you take action on this bill.

Please join us in support of HB 4101 by passing this bill out of your committee.

Thank you,
Brian Mills PA-C
President OSPA