



The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials

February 21, 2022
Senate Health Care Committee
HB 4101A - Hearing Follow-up

Chair Patterson and Senator Manning,

In follow up to today's hearing, here is an answer to Senator Manning's question and some testimony sources.

Senator Manning asked (paraphrased): What are we trying to do here? We're making the 25 foot buffer acceptable for some businesses, but not for others. We're picking and choosing.

CLHO Response: Exactly, Senator. Having two different policies doesn't make sense, and it will be confusing for the public. I would argue that what we are trying to do with this policy is to 1) decrease exposure to secondhand smoke by increasing the distance to 25 feet, and 2) ideally, as I talked about, the 25 feet would help change the cultural norm around smoking. The 25 feet would hopefully make it so people won't want to smoke because it's too inconvenient. Ultimately, public health advocates want people to quit smoking because as Marty Carty testified, smoking is still the #1 cause of preventable death in the United States.

And I'll just throw in, if people really need a nicotine fix, products like nicorette gum do exist and don't create secondhand smoke. This solution solves the safety concerns, too.

Sources:

Article: [Winning the War on Tobacco -- and Public Cynicism, Too](#)
[Rep. Schouten's 1-pager](#) (posted on OLIS in the testimony section) includes a great infographic summarizing how increased footage lessens the exposure to particulate matter. It also includes a list of wonderful sources at the bottom.