



March 17, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Re: Support for House Bill 3090

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

Deschutes County Board of County Commissioners strongly recommends support for House Bill 3090 as flavors, including menthol, continue to be a key component in making inhalant delivery systems attractive to youth. Among Oregon high school students who use inhalant delivery systems exclusively, nearly 90% use flavored products. In Deschutes County, 22% of our 11<sup>th</sup> graders have reported having used a flavored tobacco or vaping product.

The use of inhalant delivery systems pose a significant – and avoidable – health risk to young people. Teens are especially sensitive to nicotine’s addictive effects because their brains are still developing. Nicotine can have other long-lasting effects on adolescent brain development, making it harder to concentrate, learn, and control impulses. There is strong evidence that inhalant delivery systems lead to youth nicotine addiction and increases the risk that youth will start using combustible tobacco such as conventional cigarettes.

Prohibiting the sale of flavored inhalant delivery systems is an effective way to reduce the number of youth that will eventually become addicted to nicotine, and other potentially lifelong health consequences.

We strongly urge the committee to support House Bill 3090 and any additional amendments that would support comprehensive tobacco prevention strategies to help protect the health of our youth.

Thank you for your consideration,

The Deschutes County Board of Commissioners

Anthony DeBone  
Chair

Patti Adair  
Vice Chair

Phil Chang  
Commissioner

CC: Senators Lynn Findley, Tim Knopp, and Dennis Linthicum  
Representatives Vikki Breese Iverson, Jason Kropf, Emerson Levy, and E. Werner Reschke