

I am writing today in support of HB2528.

I support including tobacco-free nicotine products within the definition of “tobacco products” and allowing the OHA to regulate nicotine only products in the same manner as traditional tobacco products.

Tobacco-free nicotine products contain all the addictive potential of traditional tobacco products and carry many of the same health risks. Additionally, given how new and quickly many of these new nicotine products are being developed and introduced many of the potential health effects may have not yet been realized. Tobacco products are very closely related to nicotine only products. Since OHA already regulates tobacco products, they are the best agency to oversee nicotine only products.

As these nicotine products contain the same addictive characteristics and many of the same known health risks as tobacco products, they should be subject to the same regulations. With the increasing popularity of these products, it is increasingly important that a product being tobacco free should not allow it to be presented as a healthy or safe alternative. In my personal experience I know an increasing number of people using nicotine only products. However, none of them have, or would ever use a tobacco product. This is largely due to them considering these products to be safer because they lack tobacco. A product being tobacco free should not be synonymous with a product being safer or healthier. Since in many important ways nicotine only products pose the same public health risks as tobacco products, they should be subject to the same regulations by the same agency.

For these reasons I support HB 2528. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Charlie Jennings-Bledsoe