



OREGON COALITION OF COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

RE: Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools Support for Senate Bill 702

Dear Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Anderson, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools, which represents 30 member schools across the state, I am expressing support for Senate Bill 702.

As community-based, public charter schools, we offer unique approaches to learning, with a shared commitment to educational innovation and to high-quality schools for all students. Our mission is to provide a voice and support for brick-and-mortar public charter schools in Oregon. We also serve as a voice in the legislature for our public charter school students, getting involved in issues they care about.

We support Senate Bill 702 in large part because our students care deeply about this issue and want to see action. They see the impacts in their schools and in their friend groups, and they've made it clear this issue is a priority for them.

As school leaders who work with Oregon students every day, we care about their health and long-term success. E-cigarettes pose a serious threat to students; they deliver massive doses of nicotine which we know is harmful for young people, causing harm to brain development and impacting their mood and impulse control.

Oregon's students already have enough stressors and distractions to manage – it is our responsibility to protect them from tobacco's strategy of targeting kids. Tobacco companies produce candy-flavored products, and knowingly market these harmful products to young users, using what is essentially a trick to hook them into a lifetime of addiction.

Additionally, as school leaders we see firsthand that e-cigarette use in our schools causes classroom disruptions and impacts student's ability to learn. Please take action to protect the health of Oregon kids and reduce classroom distractions by voting yes on Senate Bill 702.

Thank you,

Iris Maria Chavez, director, Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools