



March 4, 2025

Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for Senate Bill 702

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

As health care professionals at OHSU, we have seen firsthand the devastating impact of tobacco-related diseases on our patients, particularly the increase in lung diseases caused by nicotine addiction. Flavored tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, are uniquely harmful, particularly to youth, and **we strongly urge you to pass Senate Bill 702.**

There is compelling evidence that e-cigarettes are harmful to lung and heart health. The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (2018) concluded that e-cigarettes emit a range of toxic substances, including acetaldehyde, acrolein, and formaldehyde, all of which are linked to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, including lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). These chemicals can also exacerbate pre-existing conditions like asthma.¹

E-cigarettes are also known to contain propylene glycol and vegetable glycerin, which have been shown to be toxic to cells.² A 2020 study by the University of North Carolina found that the toxicity of e-cigarette liquids increases with the number of ingredients used, making these products even more dangerous.³

¹National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. *Public health consequences of e-cigarettes*. 2018.

²Sassano, M. Flori, Eric S. Davis, James E. Keating, Bryan T. Zorn, Tavleen K. Kochar, Matthew C. Wolfgang, Gary L. Glish, and Robert Tarran. "Evaluation of e-liquid toxicity using an open-source high-throughput screening assay." *PLoS biology* 16, no. 3 (2018): e2003904.

³Ogunwale, Mumiye A., Mingxiao Li, Mandapati V. Ramakrishnam Raju, Yizheng Chen, Michael H. Nantz, Daniel J. Conklin, and Xiao-An Fu. "Aldehyde detection in electronic cigarette aerosols." *ACS omega* 2, no. 3 (2017): 1207-1214

Flavored tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, are specifically marketed to young people. According to the 2024 Annual National Youth Tobacco Survey from the FDA, 88% of youth e-cigarette users report using flavored products.⁴ These products mask the harshness of tobacco, making it easier for adolescents to start using nicotine and become addicted. Once addicted, many young people may transition to traditional cigarettes, increasing their risk for smoking-related diseases.

The risks of e-cigarettes are not limited to those who use them directly. Secondhand exposure to e-cigarette emissions contains harmful chemicals, including nicotine, ultrafine particles, volatile organic compounds, and heavy metals such as lead and tin. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, secondhand exposure to these substances can cause respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, particularly in children and those with pre-existing conditions.⁵

Flavored tobacco products are clearly harmful, especially to young people and non-smokers who may be exposed to secondhand emissions. By passing SB 702, we can reduce youth initiation of nicotine use, prevent nicotine addiction, and protect vulnerable populations from secondhand smoke exposure. We strongly urge you to support this bill and help protect the health of all Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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⁴ FDA, 2024 Annual National Youth Tobacco Survey.

⁵ General, US Surgeon. "E-cigarette use among youth and young adults." *Rockville, MD* (2016).