



April 21, 2025
SB 1198 - Support

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and members of the committee: my name is Sarah Lochner and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials, CLHO for short, representing the state's 33 county-based public health departments.

First, I want to thank President Wagner and Senator Taylor for bringing this legislation forward. We applaud their diligence and commitment to reducing access to harmful, highly addictive nicotine products for Oregon's youth.

CLHO strongly supports HB 1198, as it [strongly supported HB 2546 in 2015](#), which sought to prohibit vape products and other inhalant delivery systems' packaging from targeting kids. As you can see here by these real-life examples that clearly look like candy packaging, this is still an ongoing problem.



Tobacco and synthetic nicotine continue to be the number one cause of preventable death in the United States and in Oregon. While local public health efforts have made a dramatic impact on decreasing the use of traditional cigarettes, thanks to the funds provided by BM 108, there is still much work to be done to reduce vaping. Approximately [11% of youth in Oregon vape](#), and because flavors mask the taste of nicotine, many children do not realize they are, in fact, ingesting nicotine. Kids often refer to their vapes as “juice” because of the fruity flavors. [75% of youth who use nicotine products use flavored products](#). These products need to be packaged in a way that makes clear what people are buying so they can make informed decisions, and more to the point, they need to be regulated so as not to target children. SB 1198 seeks to clarify the law first put in place by HB 2546 so it can achieve its original intent.

CLHO urges your support of HB 1198. Thank you.

