

May 14, 2025

Position on Bills at 2025 Session of Oregon Legislature:

HB 2528: Support but needs amendment



The Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) is a coalition of over 50 local Indivisible groups throughout Oregon that cooperate and amplify their joint efforts to advance important federal and state legislation and engage with elected officials to promote causes for the benefit of all Oregonians.

COIN supports HB 2528, which would

- Add “nicotine derived from any source” to the definitions of “inhalant delivery system” and “tobacco products.”
- Repeal existing criminal prohibition on the sale of inhalant delivery systems or tobacco products to a person under 21 years of age.
- Replace the repealed law with a civil prohibition enforced by the Oregon Health Authority.
- Authorize imposition of civil penalties for violations.
- Establish a civil prohibition on providing, without compensation, inhalant delivery systems or tobacco products.
- Authorize the authority to adopt rules to regulate the sale of inhalant delivery systems or tobacco products for the purpose of protecting public health and safety.
- Require any sale of cigarettes, inhalant delivery systems or smokeless tobacco products to occur at licensed premises.
- Expand the definition of “tobacco products” for taxation purposes to include nicotine pouches, nicotine lozenges and other products containing nicotine derived from any source.

Nicotine is highly addictive, whether or not it is contained in tobacco products. It is shocking that Oregon does not prohibit the sale of nicotine products to minors.

We would prefer to maintain the existing criminal penalties for sale of tobacco products or inhalant delivery systems to minors. The existing penalties are very small, starting at a fine not to exceed \$50 and reaching \$1,000 only for the third or subsequent violation by the owner of the offending retail business. Not repealing those penalties would allow enforcement of the prohibition by local police in addition to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). We do not know how effective the OHA will be in enforcement.

Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN)

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