



**Testimony in Support HB 2546
February 9, 2015
Lynda Pond, RN
Oregon Nurses Association**

Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association in support of HB 2546, which would prohibit minors from buying or possessing e-cigarettes and include e-cigarettes in Oregon's indoor clean air act.

My name is Lynda Pond. I am a labor and delivery nurse in the Eugene area, have been practicing nursing for nearly 30 years, am here testifying today on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association. ONA is proud to represent over 12,000 Oregon nurses throughout the state. ONA is Oregon's oldest nursing organization and the largest health care union in the state. With nurses in nearly every health care setting, ONA advocates for the profession of nursing, quality patient care, and public health through education, labor organizing, and public advocacy.

Oregon is one of nine states that have not implemented regulations for electronic cigarettes, which are increasingly popular. The use of electronic cigarettes in public spaces and places of employment is a public health concern. These products are **not** emission free and many questions remain regarding the long-term impact on individuals and the population health. I urge you to act quickly to prohibit youth from purchasing electronic cigarette products and include e-cigarettes in the indoor clean air act.

Contrary to marketing messaging, secondhand aerosol emitted from electronic cigarettes are NOT merely water vapors. We are learning more about the harm e-cigarettes poses to our communities almost daily.

A report released just last week by the California Department of Public Health determined e-cigarettes do not emit water vapor, but a concoction of chemical toxic to human cells in the form of an aerosol. The report also concluded secondhand e-cigarette aerosol has been found to contain at least ten chemicals that are known to cause cancer, birth defects, and other reproductive harm.

As a nurse, I support the World Health Organization's recommendation to regulate electronic cigarettes the same way traditional cigarettes are regulated.

ONA strongly urges you to act to protect public health and include e-cigarettes in Oregon's indoor clean air act by passing HB 2546