



February 6, 2015

To: House Health Care Committee

Re: HB2546

Dear Honorable Chair Greenlick and Committee Members:

Please support HB 2546, which will establish the same restrictions on e-cigarettes as currently exist under Oregon law for tobacco, including making them fall under the Clean Indoor Air Act.

Options Counseling Services operates mental health and family preservation services in eleven Oregon counties. We serve both adults and children, with an emphasis on services provided in homes and community settings. Options providers see over 4,000 individuals and families each year, providing critical supports to keep people out of hospitals, residential settings and foster care.

The vast majority of Oregonians we serve have adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs. These adverse experiences include parental substance abuse, imprisonment, abuse or neglect, parental separation or divorce or mental illness of a member of the household. ACEs lead to poor health outcomes in adulthood. For most, nicotine addiction is a factor leading to several of the poor health outcomes. The availability of e-cigarettes to young people will only increase the likelihood that the most vulnerable Oregonians will start smoking.

Nicotine is rated as equal in addictiveness to crack cocaine, just slightly less addictive than heroin. The marketing of such an addictive substance in forms that can smell and taste like bubble gum or cookies will greatly increase the risk of use by our children. Already many young people become addicted to cigarettes in a form that is initially aversive.

The earlier a person starts smoking, the harder it is to quit. Studies have found that women who start smoking earlier are less likely to abstain from smoking during pregnancy. The Surgeon General has found that nicotine exposure during fetal development has long-term adverse effects on brain development.

Please support this sensible effort to protect Oregon's children from this destructive addiction. Doing so will improve the life of our citizens, reduce the cost of health care and protect youth most vulnerable to exploitation for profit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen Allan".

Stephen Allan, Ph.D.
CEO

cc: Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs

EUGENE

Administrative Office
1255 Pearl St. Ste.102
Eugene, OR 97401
(541) 687-6983 office
(541) 687-2063 fax

SPRINGFIELD

175 West B St. Bldg. D
Springfield, OR 97477
(541) 762-1971 office
(541) 762-1974 fax

PORTLAND

10011 SE Division St #305
Portland, OR 97266
(503) 335-5975 office
(503) 335-5974 fax

CLACKAMAS

10810 SE HWY 212
Clackamas, OR 97015
(503) 655-8045 office
(503) 655-6806 fax

SALEM

2645 Portland Rd. NE
120
Salem, OR 97301
(503) 390-5637 office
(503) 393-3135 fax

ROSEBURG

612 SE Jackson, # 11
Roseburg, OR 97470
(541) 464-6455 office
(541) 464-5475 fax

FLORENCE

1445 W. 8th Street
P.O. Box 429
Florence, OR 97439
(541) 997-6261 office
(541) 997-8606 fax