



KATHLEEN TAYLOR
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 41
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 2546

House Health Care Committee

February 9, 2015

Chair Greenlick and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak about House Bill 2546, which pertains to electronic cigarettes. Specifically, HB 2546 prohibits the sale of “inhalant delivery systems” to minors, applies all age-restricted regulation of tobacco products to e-cigarettes, and includes a prohibition of the use of e-cigarettes in the Indoor Clean Air Act.

E-cigarettes pose a significant health risk to individuals, especially young people, and when smoked indoors. We’ve been successful in decreasing the rates of tobacco youth among teens; but teen use of e-cigarettes has risen, threatening that success.

This bill was developed during the interim under the leadership of former Rep. Tomei, Reps. Greenlick and Barnhart, Senators Steiner Hayward and Monnes Anderson. I served on the workgroup as well, along with a wide group of stakeholders, including medical professionals, agency personnel, health advocates, local governments, business interests, and many others.

I want to draw your attention the letters of support, from the Oregon Medical Association, Oregon Nurses Association, Oregon Department of Justice, the Building Owners and Managers Association, the Association of Oregon Counties as well as several individual county letters, and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police. I apologize I don’t have to time to mention them all.

This group was meticulous in crafting definitions and had extensive discussions about the precise language and details of the bill, as Mark Mayer, our LC drafter, is here to explain.

In addition, our workgroup was forward-thinking, recognizing the likelihood of the passage of Measure 91, the marijuana initiative. This is why cannabinoids (marijuana) is included in the language of House Bill 2546.

When someone uses an inhalant delivery system, one cannot tell what kind of juice is being smoked. The juice may contain nicotine, it may be a candy flavored liquid, or it may contain marijuana. If we allow e-cigarettes or inhalant delivery systems to be used in restaurants, movie theaters, workplaces, etc. then it will be nearly impossible for a citizen, a store owner or employee, or a law enforcement officer to determine whether or not someone is using an inhalant delivery system to smoke marijuana.

So, in addition to the usual health advocates, law enforcement is in strong support of the Indoor Clean Air Act provisions of this bill and will be testifying shortly. Enforcement of the new marijuana laws are going to be complicated enough, without also having indoor e-cigarette use in the mix.

Thank you again for your consideration of this measure. I urge your support for HB 2546.