



To: House Committee on Healthcare
From: Oregon Health Equity Alliance
Date: February 13, 2015
Re: HB 2546

Chair Greenlick, Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA) would like to express our support for HB 2546. OHEA represents a collective effort of 38 member organizations who work together to make Oregon a more equitable place for all. Our coalition believes every Oregonian should have an equal chance to achieve their full health potential, and that is why we are supporting HB 2546.

OHEA members are very concerned about the health impacts of tobacco, nicotine and electronic delivery devices, especially for youth. HB 2546 will set an age restriction on e-cigarettes, including both the liquids that contain nicotine, and the devices used for inhaling vapor. HB 2546 will also make provisions of Oregon's Clean Indoor Act apply to e-cigarettes.

It is long past due that we had greater regulation of e-cigarettes. They contain nicotine, a highly addictive substance that affects the brain development of children. Studies have shown that many youth, especially youth of color have started using e-cigarettes, and then transitioned to regular cigarettes. Other studies show that nicotine from e-cigarette vapor may be absorbed by other people in the near vicinity.

It is therefore critical that we create common sense regulation of e-cigs, including an age-restriction on e-cigs, and to ensure that children and non-smokers are protected from the effects of second-hand vaping.

Thank you for your commitment to our communities.

Joseph Santos-Lyons, APANO, OHEA co-Chair
Midge Purcell, Urban League of Portland, OHEA co-Chair