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February 27, 2015

From the Desk of  
State Representative  
Bill Kennemer



To: Oregon State Representatives

From: Carrie Nyssen, Vice President of Advocacy  
American Lung Association in Oregon

Re: Support for HB 2546A

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The American Lung Association in Oregon urges your support for House Bill 2546A. This legislation will move forward our mission of saving lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease.

Oregon is one of very few states where youth are able to purchase electronic cigarettes – and youth use of these devices has nearly tripled in Oregon. Vapor products are particularly appealing to Oregon's youth because they are widely available online and in stores, have a high-tech design and are marketed with fruit and candy flavors, like bubble gum, gummy bear and cotton candy. E-cigarette marketing features celebrities and appear on television, the internet and social media – all places where youth spend their time.

Ninety percent of adult smokers began smoking at or before the age of 18. It is important to prevent youth from starting to use tobacco or addictive vapor products to avoid a lifetime of addiction to nicotine.

This legislation is about keeping Oregon's youth healthy and safe. We need to maintain our norm of healthy environments by including electronic cigarettes in our Indoor Clean Air Act. Emissions from electronic cigarettes may smell better than combustible tobacco products yet studies have found formaldehyde and benzene in the 'vapor'. It's clear there is more than just water vapor in these products.

The American Lung Association in Oregon urges your support.