



Testimony in Opposition to SB 307
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Co-chairs Burdick and Linger and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of robust protections and enforcement of the Indoor Clean Air Act, which allows Oregonians to live healthier, more productive lives. The Oregon Nurses Association is proud to represent nearly 15,000 Oregon nurses, working in settings from large hospitals to small local clinics, corrections and community-based public health. ONA nurses are intimately aware of the detrimental effects of smoking and second-hand smoke, which is why we support protecting and expanding the Indoor Clean Air Act (ICAA) to ban all smoking in public spaces and encourage you to oppose SB 307.

With inconclusive data available, ONA does not support any comparative statements on the differences between smokes and vapors, whether they contain tobacco, nicotine or marijuana. Marijuana smoke is still a combustible substance that contains many of the same toxins, irritants and carcinogens as tobacco smoke.^{1 2} Ultimately, inhaling smoke of any kind is harmful to one's health and should be regulated under the ICAA.

A recent study from the Journal of the American Heart Association encourages secondhand smoke laws extend to marijuana because both tobacco and marijuana smoke impair blood vessel function similarly.³ Like tobacco, studies have found that smoking marijuana can irritate the lungs and lead to breathing problems like cough, excess mucus, bronchitis, and worsening of conditions like asthma and cystic fibrosis.⁴

Further, the second-hand impacts of marijuana smoke are stark: in one study, after an hour exposed to second hand marijuana smoke, nonsmokers' blood and urine tests showed detectable amounts of THC, in some cases enough to test positive for workplace or commercial drug testing programs.⁵ Allowing smoking in public spaces puts an undue burden and risk on the general public.

We have learned a tremendous amount about the negative health impacts of tobacco, nicotine and second-hand smoke over the decades and worked hard to put in place regulations that minimize exposure for future generations. The state should use that knowledge by ensuring that the starting point for marijuana regulations aligns with current tobacco regulations – namely through limiting use in public areas. The burden should be on the marijuana industry to demonstrate why marijuana smoke is vastly different from tobacco smoke in terms of public health and safety.

As direct care providers for many Oregonians who suffer from chronic illness as a result of smoking and second-hand smoke, ONA urges you to oppose public smoking of any kind as outlined in SB 307. Protecting and expanding the Indoor Clean Air Act ultimately saves thousands from experiencing chronic health issues, putting the health and productivity of *all* Oregonians first, instead of carving out additional smoking spaces for just a few.

¹ One Minute of Marijuana Secondhand Smoke Exposure Substantially Impairs Vascular Endothelial Function, Journal of the American Heart Association, July 2016. <http://jaha.ahajournals.org/content/5/8/e003858.full#ref-38>

² Marijuana and Public Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 2017. <https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/health-effects.htm>

³ One Minute of Marijuana Secondhand Smoke Exposure Substantially Impairs Vascular Endothelial Function.

⁴ Marijuana: Health effects of recreational and medical use, Harvard Health Publications, August 2016. <http://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/the-health-effects-of-marijuana-from-recreational-and-medical-use-2016081910180>

⁵ Secondhand marijuana smoke can cause range of detectable effects, study finds, John Hopkins May 2015 <https://hub.jhu.edu/2015/05/15/secondhand-marijuana-smoke-study/>