

February 14, 2017

Joint Committee on Marijuana Regulation
900 Court St. NE- HR C
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: SB 307 - Consumption and sale of marijuana items at temporary events, including licensure of premises on which temporary events are held

Co-Chair Burdick, Co-Chair Lininger, and members of the committee, my name is Dr. Paul Lewis; I have been a practicing pediatrician in Oregon for over 20 years and also serve as the Tri-County Health Officer for Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties. I am here today on behalf to Multnomah County to oppose SB 307 which fails to consider the consequences of its implementation to child, youth, and adult safety. I served on both the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) marijuana rules advisory committees and advocated for simple, common sense regulations that promote child safety. Despite my efforts, and those of the Oregon Poison Center and the Oregon Pediatric Society, we were unable to convince agency officials to enact simple rules that would eliminate the risk of toddlers ingesting large doses of marijuana infused cookies, candy, and snacks. This experience deflated my confidence that the state agencies charged with regulating this new industry had the political support to provide adequate public health protections through rule-making. Today I want to appeal directly to you as legislators and committee members to make your support for public safety clear to the public and the state agencies responsible for regulations.

We oppose this bill for two primary reasons. First, it weakens Oregon's Indoor Clean Air Act (ICAA) and will lead to increased exposure to secondhand smoke. Second, by allowing for public smoking at special events, it changes social norms about smoking, a set back to the last half century of progress on this topic.

This bill looks to create an exemption for public consumption of marijuana at special events through a temporary license program run by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC), and amends the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act to allow for indoor marijuana use at OLCC certified cannabis lounges. The intention of the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act is to protect all Oregonians, employees, as well as the public, from the dangers of secondhand smoke. Creating exemptions, such as allowing cannabis clubs to allow indoor smoking or vaping, will set a precedent for further exemptions to allow additional smokeshops, cigar bars, and hookah lounges.

According to a recent survey conducted by Oregon Health Authority, 83% of Oregon adults agree that people should be protected from secondhand smoke¹. Protecting Oregonian's from exposure to marijuana smoke should be no different. The American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-

¹ September 2016, Oregon Health Authority Prevention Panel Survey

Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) added marijuana smoke to their definition of environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) and state that there is no ventilation system that can eliminate ETS².

Because this bill does not include a stand alone requirement for a premises licensed for a temporary event or cannabis club certification, marijuana smoking may occur in a building where other businesses are co-located and share walls and ventilation systems. This may result in the involuntary exposure of secondhand marijuana smoke to employees and the public. We support ICAA to provide a uniform statewide minimum standard for prohibiting smoking and vaping indoors. Creating exemptions to ICAA creates confusion among users and to those enforcing it.

Our other primary concern is the normalization of smoking when it is allowed in public. We know all too well from our experience with tobacco control that youth are easily influenced by what their friends are doing and what they experience in their communities. In 2012, the Surgeon General called on local governments to put in place policies that create environments that encourage and support a smoke-free life to protect the young³. A recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention review of the scientific literature found a significant body of evidence that shows that smoke-free policies are associated with decreases in: secondhand smoke exposure; tobacco use prevalence among young people and adults; and adverse health effects⁴.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today and I am happy to answer any questions you may have for me at this time.

Sincerely,

Paul Lewis, MD, MPH
Health Officer Multnomah County, Oregon

² American Society of Heating Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Addenda 2015 Supplement: Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality. 2015.

³ Preventing tobacco use among youth and young adults: a report of the Surgeon General – Atlanta, GA. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health; Washington, D.C.: For sale by the Supt. of Docs., U.S. G.P.O., 2012.

⁴ Tobacco Use and Secondhand Smoke Exposure: Smoke-Free Policies. The Community Guide. <https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/tobacco-use-and-secondhand-smoke-exposure-smoke-free-policies>. Accessed on: February 11, 2017.