



Sandy

HIGH SCHOOL

Home of the Pioneers!

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September 24, 2019

Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners

2051 Kaen Road

Oregon City, OR 97045

RE: County-wide Tobacco Retail License

My name is Kimberly Ball and I am the principal at Sandy High School. I am writing in support of a county-wide tobacco retail license to prevent people under 21 years from purchasing tobacco and nicotine products.

Results of the 2018 Oregon Wellness Survey show a growing percentage of Sandy High 11th grade students using e-cigarettes or vape pens. While the perceived easy availability of cigarettes is at 42%, the availability of e-cigarettes is at 61%. Only 36% of 11th graders believe vaping is risky. The alarming increase in youth use of inhalant delivery systems (vape pens) underscores the urgent need for regulation of tobacco and nicotine sales. Early use of these products increases the risk of lifelong addiction to nicotine. We battle student use of nicotine on a daily basis!

An evaluation of tobacco retail licensing in California demonstrated the effectiveness in decreasing illegal sales of tobacco and nicotine products to minors. TRL is also the mechanism to regulate the time, place and manner of tobacco sales such as requiring minimum distances between tobacco retailers and schools. Studies show that the density of tobacco retailers and proximity of retailers to schools impacts youth tobacco rates.

Tobacco is the leading cause of death in Clackamas County. Moreover, tobacco disproportionately affects lower-income populations, communities of color, people living with mental illness, and the LGBTQI community.

A county-wide tobacco retail license supports healthy families and communities by preventing young people across all Health Equity Zones from trying nicotine and developing a life long addiction.

Thank you for your leadership in protecting the future of our youth.

Kimberly Ball

Sandy High School

Principal

Thank you for your comments in support of Tobacco Retail License.

Oregon state law prohibits selling any tobacco or vaping products to people under 21, however the state has limited ability to enforce this restriction.

We are aware of the Oregon Wellness Survey results, and we share your concern about protecting the health of our youth.

Four Oregon counties have implemented a local tobacco retail license, which has proven to reduce youth access to purchasing tobacco and vaping products in other jurisdictions.

Our county staff is researching our options and conducting outreach to determine whether this is an option in our county as a way to restrict youth access to these products as well.

We appreciate hearing from you on the issue. Thank you again for your comments and for your interest in Clackamas County.