OPHA Action Alert: Increased Tobacco Tax at Risk this Session!

Call your Legislator Today!

The use of e-cigarettes by our youth is skyrocketing. In fact, the US Surgeon General called it an epidemic. We have a chance to help change this trend. OPHA supports HB 2270 which would raise Oregon’s tobacco tax by $2 and for the first time ever, tax e-cigarettes. HB 2270 is waiting to be scheduled for a vote. If it doesn’t get scheduled soon it will not move this legislative session!

Send an email to your legislators and ask them to take action on the bill today! Personal emails and calls are even better. A simple message that you are a constituent, e-cigarette use is addictive and harms developing brains, and that these taxes are a proven method of reducing use and increasing efforts to quit is all you need to say.

Tobacco is the number one cause of preventable death in Oregon. It causes more deaths than obesity, alcohol, motor and firearms accidents and illicit drug use combined. Oregon hasn’t raised the tobacco tax in almost 20 years and we currently don’t tax e-cigarette products at all.

The money raised will be spent on the Oregon Health Plan and on smoking cessation programs with a focus on culturally specific programs. When the communities that have historically been targeted by tobacco companies are ready to stop, there will be appropriate cessation programs for them.

It’s time to take action! Email or call your legislators and ask them to take action on HB 2270!

Don’t know your legislator? Find it at https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/.

Let’s Work Together to Make Health Happen.