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Oregon Public Health Association

Working together to make health happen

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 harm 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.