



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 17, 2022

Chief Clerk Sekerak
Oregon State Capitol

RE: Vote explanation for HB 4101 (A-Engrossed)

Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I wish to submit the following explanation for my vote on HB 4101 (A-Engrossed).

HB 4101 (A-Engrossed) increases the distance from certain parts of public and private places of employment which persons may not smoke an inhalant from 10 feet to 25 feet.

Fundamentally I agree with Oregon's decision to create a buffer between building entrance and where smoking is allowed outside, however, the 10-foot rule has been in place and been effective since 2009. Businesses complied in 2009 by posting signs, at their expense, to all public entrances and smokers learned that 10 feet was the rule in every public place.

In 2016, inhalant devices were added to the rule. Businesses again complied, at their expense, with updating their required sign postings. Individuals using inhalants knew the 10-foot rule as many of them were also former nicotine users trying to "kick the habit" or changing to a new product.

Now the rules are changing again and will move some public locations to 25 feet while others remain at 10 feet potentially creating confusion for users and frustration for those businesses who are charged with enforcing it. Oregon will be the only state with variable distances depending on the business.

Oregon will join nine other states with buffer zones. However, they will only be joining four others that have 25-foot zones. There was no explanation as to the move to 25 feet. Why not 20 feet? Why not 50 feet?

Regards,

Anna Scharf

