



HB 4172: Protect Oregon Youth from Tobacco: Reinstate Basic Enforcement Procedures for Under-Age Sales

Oregon Lags Behind Nation

Oregon ranks as one of the least effective states in the nation for enforcing the ban on sales of tobacco to minors.

Youth Tobacco Purchases: 1 in 5

In 2010, nearly one-in-five attempts (19%) by a minor to purchase cigarettes in Oregon was successful.

- Nationwide, illegal sales to minors have dropped to the current rate of 9%.

Enforcement Suspended Since 2009

Currently only survey information is collected to comply with federal regulations—meaning no citations and no fines for retailers who break the law.

Poor Performance Risks Loss of Funds

Oregon's high rate of sales to minors could jeopardize federal funding. Oregon may be penalized up to \$7 million in lost healthcare funding if non-compliance increases just 1%, from 19% to 20%.

Sending Our Youth Mixed Messages

Over 90 percent of smokers begin while in their teens or younger. Failing to enforce minimum-age laws wastes an opportunity to reduce youth smoking and tells kids our laws need not be taken seriously.

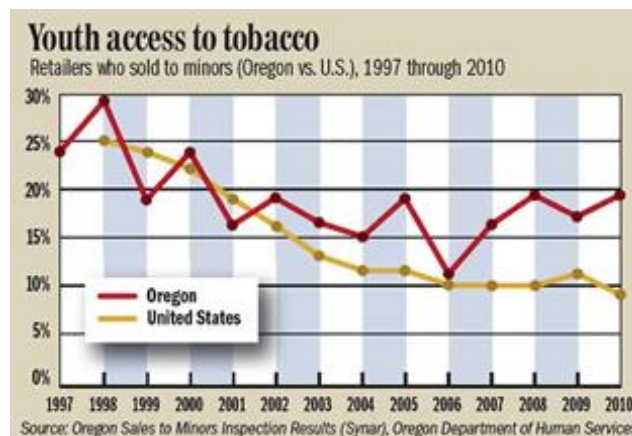
HB 4172 Reinstates A Successful Program

From 1994 to 2009, OHA contracted with OSP to hire retired State Police Officers to run inspections with enforcement. The program was both affordable and effective and during the program's tenure, Oregon reached its lowest illegal sales to minors rate of 11% in 2005. HB 4172 will not use additional state resources by utilizing existing resources and federal funds.

Federal Dollars Available

The United States Food and Drug Administration's non-competitive Tobacco Retail Compliance Inspection Contract program assists states with inspections of retail sales establishments. 38 states are currently enrolled in contracts ranging from \$250,000 to \$1.3 million annually.

**Join Oregon's Leading Tobacco Control Advocates in Supporting HB 4172:
A common sense bill to ensure basic enforcement of tobacco sales to youth.**



Tribune Graphic: Pete Vogel