



Wednesday, February 16, 2022

**RE: OPPOSITION OF S 1285 PREEMPTION OF LOCAL TOBACCO POLICY**

Dear Chairman Martin and Members of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee,

On behalf of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights, Parents Against Vaping e-cigarettes, and Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation and those we serve; we are writing to express **STRONG OPPOSITION TO S1285**.

Our coalition advocates for public policies that help prevent tobacco related death and disease at all levels of government. Local governments are uniquely positioned to meet the needs of the people in their respective communities. They should retain the capacity to pass laws that are proven to promote good health, well-being, and equality. Local elected officials meet regularly throughout the year and are best situated to quickly identify problems and address concerns specific to the needs of their constituents. For example, issues faced by communities on the Washington, Oregon, or Montana borders can be quite different from those faced in rural South Central Idaho. S1285 explicitly prevents local governments from addressing the specific and unique needs of their own communities when regulating the sale of tobacco products or electronic smoking devices.

This legislation allows for e-cigarettes and other tobacco products to be directly marketed to youth near playgrounds, parks and schools. Moreover, this law also allows menthol cigarettes and other flavored tobacco products - including e-cigarettes - to be advertised and sold , without regard for protections that might be put in place to keep such products away from children. Preventing local communities from addressing such challenges grants the tobacco industry widespread access to new generations of youth thereby facilitating lifelong tobacco and nicotine addiction with its associated and health risks well into the future.

This year in Idaho alone, 1,800 adults will die from smoking related diseases and 30% of the state's cancer deaths will be attributable to smoking. Over \$508 million annually is spent in Idaho on health care costs directly caused by smoking. The state and federal tax burden from smoking-caused government expenditures is \$886 per Idaho household. These statistics alone emphasize why all levels of government **MUST** work together to implement policies that

protect the public's health and prevent our children from becoming lifelong tobacco users and by extension, suffer chronic illness which limits their lifespans.

We respectfully request the committee hold S1285 in committee.

Respectfully submitted,

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