November 9, 2018

TO: Coalition of Local Health Officials Board of Directors

FR: Coalition Legislative Committee

RE: Policy Statements recommendation

Over the course of the last two Legislative Committee meetings the group has made two recommendations to the Coalition Board of Directors to support the Policy Statements. I have condensed the Policy Statements into a “Platform” document that will continue to grow over the years.

On November 8th five members of the Coalition of Local Health Officials Legislative committee met and reviewed Policy Statements. The Conference Committees have provided background, data and justification and the Coalition Legislative Committee has worked to build and work smith the actual policy positions in each of the documents which provides the actual positions for the Coalition.

On October 15th, the Legislative Committee reviewed and recommended three policy statements on Indoor Clean Air Act, Tobacco Retail Licensure and Tobacco & E-Cigarette policy.

On November 8th the Legislative Committee reviewed recommended six policy statements on: Private Wells, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Vaccine Access, Oregon State Public Health Lab, and Reproductive Health Access.

Here is the Policy Platform formed from those Policy Statements:

The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials supports:

* Oregon’s Indoor Clean Air Act - a statewide, comprehensive smoke and vape-free workplace law with no exemptions or preemption of local ordinances.
* Tobacco Tax Increases - a tax increase for cigarettes, inhalant delivery systems, and other tobacco products in order to prevent youth initiation and promote cessation and reduced consumption of tobacco products.
* Statewide Tobacco Retail Licensure - an effective statewide tobacco retail licensing law that requires retailers to purchase a license in order to sell any tobacco products including inhalant delivery systems.
* Vaccine Access - equal access to low- or no-cost vaccines across the lifespan including strong vaccination programs that protect priority populations and their families and include right-to-know policies
* Sexually Transmitted Infection prevention - the vital and unique role played by public health in the prevention of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).
* State Public Health Lab - a robust Public Health Lab as a vital component of the Oregon public health system in rapidly detecting and protecting communities from public health threats.
* Reproductive Health Services - comprehensive access to low- or no-cost, effective Reproductive Health Services for all Oregonians.
* Emergency Preparedness & Response - Sustaining and building the capability and capacity of every local health department in Oregon to be able to carry out the important work of ensuring their communities are prepared for, protected from, and resilient in the face of all health threats and hazards, including those resulting from infectious disease outbreaks, natural disasters, or human-caused incidents.
* Safe Private Wells - a strong system of improving local and state capacity to assess and manage risks associated with private wells to protect both the lifelong health of Oregonians and the state's groundwater resources.