

Raises Taxes on Tobacco Products to  
Generate Revenue for Medicaid and  
Healthcare Programs

# Measure 108

Measure 108 raises taxes on cigarette and cigar products and imposes a tax on vaping products to generate revenue for Oregon Medicaid and healthcare programs. Measure 108 would raise existing taxes on cigarettes from \$1.33 a pack to \$3.33 a pack, raise the tax cap on individual cigars from \$0.50 to \$1 per cigar, and impose a 65% tax on the wholesale price of vaping products. 10% of the revenue generated by this tax will fund public health programs to deter tobacco usage. The remaining 90% of revenue raised by this tax would go to Oregon's Medicaid program, the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). OHP has projected a \$320 million funding gap for the upcoming biennium, which the tax would help to alleviate. Supporters of Measure 108 include Kaiser Permanente, Legacy Health, and the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon. Opponents to Measure 108 include the Oregon Taxpayer's Association and the American Vaping Association. EMO endorses Measure 108 based on its social principles of Human Rights & Religious Freedom, Family & Community Well-being, and Public Witness & Common Good. EMO acknowledges that the funding mechanism employed in Measure 108 is neither perfect nor equitable, as there is a credible concern that taxes will disproportionately be paid by low-income Oregonians. However, EMO believes that it is more important than ever to ensure healthcare for all Oregonians; this measure represents the only immediate option for ensuring the stability of OHP through these unprecedented times. EMO also believes that the culturally specific providers who are among those set to receive the remaining 10% of tax revenue will help mitigate the disproportionate harm that tobacco causes to communities of color, low-income Oregonians, and youth. In addition to Measure 108, EMO's Board of Directors voted to endorse Measures 107 and 110.