



December 17, 2018

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support for S. 3701, Smoke-Free Schools Act of 2018

Dear Senator Hatch:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write to thank you for introducing S. 3701, the Smoke-Free Schools Act of 2018. This important legislation would help educate children about the dangers of e-cigarettes and other electronic nicotine delivery systems. The bill would clarify the inclusion of e-cigarettes in smoking bans in educational and childcare facilities, confirm that e-cigarette prevention is an allowable use of federal funding to promote safe and healthy schools, and authorize studies on both best practices for schools to discourage e-cigarette use and on gaps in knowledge of the harms of e-cigarettes among adolescents and youth.

ONS believes that nurses can play a vital role in helping to educate and inform the public and patients with cancer about the addictive nature of nicotine and the harmful health impacts caused by both combustible and noncombustible tobacco products. Nurses can assist in tobacco prevention efforts by encouraging non-smokers never to start and by helping those who smoke to quit, utilizing Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved and evidence-based smoking cessation methods.

ONS is a professional organization of over 39,000 registered nurses and other health care providers dedicated to excellence in patient care, education, research, and administration in oncology nursing. ONS members are a diverse group of professionals who represent a variety of professional roles, practice settings, and subspecialty practice areas. Oncology nurses are leaders in the health care arena, committed to continuous learning and leading the transformation of cancer care by advocating for high-quality care for people with cancer.

Please know that ONS and its members very much appreciate your leadership on this issue. We would be happy to discuss ways in which ONS may be of assistance in this endeavor and would encourage you to contact Donna (Dede) Sweeney, ONS Director of Government Affairs, at dsweeney@ons.org. We look forward to engaging in an ongoing dialogue to address issues of importance to our cancer patients and ways in which we can promote public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura Fennimore".

Laura Fennimore, RN, DNP. NEA-BC
President, Oncology Nursing Society