

3/17/2023

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Nelson and Goodwein, and members of the House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care:

I am writing to educate around 3090, the Preventing Nicotine Addiction bill, which will protect our kids and our communities by ending the sale of all flavored tobacco products in Oregon.

I am ***a mother of two little girls and I work for a local non-profit, Northwest Family Services.*** I am also the middle of five children and have a brother and sister that smoke and two other brothers that vape. I have seen addiction up close and personal as my brothers and sisters are constantly using tobacco and nicotine products. It has taken a toll on their children as well, who often ask them to quit, knowing the negative health consequences that smoking/vaping has on their bodies. I also know my girls are exposed to it when we are doing family activities and that this normalizes the use of tobacco and vaping devices.

Our kids are being targeted by Big Tobacco. Our kids are using flavored tobacco. While product names like Cotton Candy and Tutti Fruitti sound harmless, they are very dangerous. Consider the facts

- More than 3 million middle and high school students use tobacco and e-cigarettes.
- 85% of youth e-cigarette users use flavored products.
- Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Oregon, killing over 8,000 Oregonians a year.

Nicotine is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development. Why is this bill necessary, when retailers are already prohibited from selling flavored tobacco to young people under age 21? Because it's not working.

- The Oregon Health Authority recently reported that 25% of Oregon businesses sold tobacco to underage buyers.

HB 3090, the Preventing Nicotine Addiction Act, will help to protect youth across Oregon from falling into the trap of nicotine addiction and tobacco and e-cigarette use, as well as the host of serious health consequences associated with their use.

Sincerely,

*



Abigail Wells, MA, CPS