

Chair Nosse and members of the committee. My name is April Fisher, a Native American, and I live in Grants Pass, where my store, Tribal Vape, is located. I'm here today in opposition to House Bill 3090.

I started Tribal Vape in 2013. Vaping saved, not only my husband's life, but many of our customers. They have been able to take the flavors they enjoy to reduce their nicotine levels, not to mention eliminating the thousands of chemicals created by combustible cigarettes. I have my whole life into this store. I am a 55 year old female business owner who has all of my money in this goal to help adults choose a safer alternative. We don't get rich. After overhead, we barely make 5% profit.

Our whole goal is to help people stop smoking and many have done just that. In fact, many of our customers have stopped vaping all together because they were able to wean themselves off of the cigarettes, then lower their nicotine levels to the point where they could just put it all down and walk away. Flavors helped them do this. If you want to get technical about it, tobacco is also a flavor in eliquid. To say that it's just about the flavors would require you to also eliminate any flavored alcohol that kids might navigate towards.

Yes, there have been bad actors in the vape community, as with any other industry, but those of us who care about retaining our right to free choice, have done amazing things in combating and trying to get bad actors' shutdown. More work needs to be done, as those of us who follow the rules are the only ones looked at. Enforcement of the laws, already in place, not new ones is what is ultimately needed. To completely eliminate a choice to which, we as adults, should have the right, doesn't make any sense, and in my personal opinion, unconstitutional. Castrating the vaping industry by the ban on flavors is essentially eliminating it. You have no intention of reimbursing any of us for the loss of our livelihoods you are essentially going to make fail thru legislation that does no more than any other regulation, to keep minors from underage drinking, drug use, or just being stupid kids. Anything that has been banned has found it's way to the black market where you have no control. At least with our stores, we have some control to keep kids from using our products.

Last month, the state sent a minor into Tribal Vape on a sting while our one remaining employee was working. He asked for ID and asked the minor to leave, not allowing him to remain in the store or make a purchase. We've passed every sting we've ever had.

Taking away flavors is taking away free choice for a community of adults who are trying to get healthier. We need enforcement, not a flavor ban.

Thank you!