

Submitter: Aditi Tiwari

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3090

Flavors Hook Oregon Kids

Sample: HB 3090 Testimony Letter

03/20/2023

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

I am writing in support of HB 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 resident physician, affiliated with department of pediatrics at OHSU.

I support this bill because in my short stint (8months) of being a first-year resident, I have encountered a number of teens and tweens admitted with critical illness including anxiety, depression, eating disorders, suicidal intentions sharing a common thread of flavored tobacco product use. The ease of availability, peer pressure and most importantly their advertisement campaigns branding these products as almost harmless, translates into the teen's minds as a non-sum zero game. It is not a fully informed choice they make for themselves considering the risks and adverse effects of tobacco.

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. Taking action now will help protect our kids, prevent serious health impacts and avoid a lifetime of addiction.

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.

Passage of HB 3090, the Preventing Nicotine Addiction Act, will go a long way 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,

Dr. Aditi Tiwari, MD

Pediatrics Resident

OHSU