

**House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
Oregon State House of Representative**

RE: HB 3090, Protecting youth from nicotine addiction

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.

As a member in the community of Multnomah County, I believe this is the best approach to reduce the issue to youth using tobacco at a young age. Especially flavored tobacco as it's been a popular trend for youth to use. It has been an issue in school with students getting in trouble for vaping in classrooms, bathrooms or anywhere in school. I support this bill and hopefully you can too.

Big Tobacco targets us with advertising, flavors, and product placement. Seeing flavors like Cotton Candy and Tutti Frutti in convenience stores next to actual candy is confusing. Adults say not to vape, but then why are the flavors candy or other sweets kids like? 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. We need to take action to protect future kids from damaging their health and being addicted to vaping.

Getting flavored tobacco if you are under 21 isn't difficult. Many of my peers are actually able to purchase it in stores:

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

We ask you to please support HB 3090, the Preventing Nicotine Addiction Act. This policy can prevent future kids across Oregon from nicotine addiction and the poor physical, mental, and developmental health challenges caused by these products.

Thank you for caring about the health and well-being of Oregon's kids.

Sincerely,
Terry Quinones
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