

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson and Goodwin, and members of the committee,

My name is Sam and I'm a volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. We urge your support of HB 3090 to end the sale of menthol cigarettes and all other flavored tobacco products in Oregon. All products, all flavors, all locations, no exceptions.

Prevention is the greatest tool we have in public health. Tobacco-related illness remains the number one cause of preventable death in Oregon. Over 8,000 Oregonians will die of smoking-related illness this year. According to the CDC and the Oregon Health Authority, 95% of adults who smoke first started before the age of 21, but fewer than 25% of these same adults use any form of flavored product, while 85% of youth who smoke started using a flavored product, and 80% exclusively use a flavored product.

By removing these flavored tobacco products, fewer children will be tempted to try them for the first time, avoiding a lifetime of addiction, illness, and death.

I support improving tobacco control in Oregon because it has personally affected me and my family. Unfortunately, I have cousins & younger family members that have started using e-cigarettes & other flavored tobacco products as they don't consider them as dangerous or harmful as traditional cigarettes. I worry for them & my nephews' long-term health & the high risk of things like lung cancer (and other cancers), heart problems, and emphysema. I've seen too many family members suffer through these health problems & diseases. We must strive to protect our families & communities.

Please vote yes on HB 3090 and end the sale of all flavored tobacco products with no exemptions in Oregon. Your leadership will save lives.

Thank you,

Sam Blankenship