

Submitter: Valerie Zacha

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3090

Hello, I would like to comment on OR HB 3090.

I oppose this legislation and I would like to explain why.

I was a cigarette smoker for 20 years, up to 2 packs a day at one point. It was awful, not only the mess and the smell, but I couldn't even laugh with my then 6 year old daughter (who was and is very silly!) without coughing. I wanted to quit, but couldn't.

I changed jobs in 2014 and at the new office there were several people who had changed from cigarettes to vape. I wanted to try vaping as a way to quit smoking, but felt "weird" about it and having folks at the office also doing the same made the transition easier.

I have been cigarette free since 2015. I can laugh and be silly with my daughter all day long and there isn't a cough to be found. My house and car smell better and I don't have to change my clothes after a trip outside. I also save money, a lot of it.

I use a low nicotine refillable liquid with a reusable device. That device is already harder if not impossible to replace and refill since the passage of the last law on this that removed the direct sales to consumers. Because of this I have purchased the disposable vapes at the mini-marts.

I believe this bill focuses on the wrong thing. I believe we need a bill to regulate the amount of nicotine that are in the disposable vapes, which are the most common for the underage users to access.

As I said, I use a very low nicotine liquid. 6mg. I was SHOCKED to see that the nicotine concentration in the disposable vapes is almost 10 times the amount!! 50mg!!

Our kids are getting addicted to these vapes not because of the flavor (I mean, come on, teenagers smoke cigarettes which taste horrible!) but because of the super high concentration of nicotine in the vapes that they can get their hands on.

I am an adult, and I choose to continue to vape. I do not believe that as an adult my right to continue should be limited by a law that doesn't address the real issues.

I also believe that there is absolutely NO reason to continue to allow these 50mg

disposable vapes on the market.

If we truly want folks to quit, or at the very least improve their health, allowing an option other than cigarettes is a must.

By regulating the nicotine level and not the flavor, adults still have the option to choose, and if underage users do obtain the vapes, the nicotine in just one disposable vape will not be enough to get them instantly, insatiably, addicted.

Please reconsider this bill and instead consider addressing the root of the issue, the addiction due to the extreme amount of nicotine.

Thank you :-)