

Submitter: Nishika Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3090

Good evening Representative Nosse and members of the committee my name is Nishika Smith and I am a cashier at smoke solutions in Roseburg. It's no secret to those who know me and even those who pass by on the street that I'm black. A little bit harder to see but clear to all those who know and love me, I am LGBTQ+. I've never vaped before I've never smoked before yet and still I'm here in front of you today to ask you to say no to banning flavored nicotine products. Working at smokeless solutions I've had the opportunity to meet and help a few LGBTQ+ people quit smoking. There is a group of three of lovely people who come in regularly over the ten months I have worked there, and in that ten months two of these three individuals are down to zero percent nicotine level. When I told them about the flavor ban they were very upset and confused. It felt like a direct attack on all the progress they have made. And ironically enough the one thing I agree with the opposing side is that the group that we have feel targeted by as LGBTQ+ members is big tobacco. I feel like this is a large opportunity for big tobacco's to regain it's following and take back customers who pried themselves from its grasp. The opposition stated poeple will be deterred from smoking cigarettes due to taste. I have had customers tell me directly they will go back to tobacco if this happens. As we saw when Dr Pham approached the bench with candy Adults like candy as well. If i recall at least half of you took a piece of candy in his example. Some even went back for seconds. The problem isnt flavors and the answer isnt prohibition. The answer is regulation. We cant ignore that the black market exists. In closing, I offer a more feasable solution. As you regulate alcohol and marijuana in your state so should you nicotine. Vaping products belong in vape stores alone, not mini marts or convenience stores with no motivation to regulate sales to minors.