

Submitter: Josh Kelso

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3090

Good evening My Name is Josh Kelso, and My family owns 2 stores located in Portland, Oregon. I am here today to OPPOSE House bill 3090 the Total Tobacco flavor Ban. My father who came to this country from Palestine with absolutely nothing lived in the New York subways for three months until one of his good friends helped him off the streets to start his life. When the time came when he saved enough money to open his stores, he took the opportunity and moved to Portland, Oregon. Since then, he depended on both of these stores for our family's income and to give his family and employees a better life than it is now.

We have owned these stores for 20 years; we employ over 20 employees in our 2 locations with some employees being with us for over 15 years. These employees live and work the state of Oregon, your voters. As a co-owner of my father's business, we have been through a lot over the last 20 years in business during the wildfires, riots, and especially during the pandemic. To keep the doors open to feed our family and especially our employees

If this Total Tobacco Flavor Ban is passed over 70% of my business would be affected and I would have to lay off most of my employees. Which would put them on the street. This is not the way to help make the Oregon cleaner and safer. I would expect the State of Oregon to legalize harsh drugs, deport the homeless that are taking over the cities back to where they came from, and fund the police officers so we can hire them to keep our streets cleaner and safer for children and future kids to come.

This Total Tobacco Flavor Ban will only create a Black Market, Keep the age verification in the stores, this is my job as a store owner, we card all customers regardless of any circumstances it is IMPORTANT to our business, these customers are our FAMILY, and they are our livelihood, revenue, and our community. As an owner, I am responsible for taking care of my family business and our employees to card every customer that walks in that door.