Flavors Hook Oregon Kids
HB 3090 Testimony Letter

March 23, 2023

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Nelson and Goodwin, 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.

I am *Clifford O. Chappell, with the Portland Black Community Development Consortium (PBCDC)*

I support this bill because I have seen too many of my family members and friends suffer behind their use of flavored tobacco. I have two very close friends right now, one with COPD and another with lung cancer. Anything that can be done to prevent others from this type of needless suffering, I'm in support of it.

Our kids are being targeted by Big Tobacco. Our kids are using flavored tobacco. While product names like Cotton Candy and Tutti Frutti sound harmless, they are very dangerous. Consider the facts

- More than 3 million middle and high school students use tobacco and e-cigarettes.
- 81% of kids who've used tobacco started with a flavored product.
- Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Oregon, killing over 8,000 Oregonians every year.

Nicotine is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development. Taking action now will help protect our kids, prevent serious health impacts, and avoid a lifetime of addiction.

Why is this bill necessary, when retailers are already prohibited from selling flavored tobacco to young people under the age of 21? Because it's not working.

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

Passage of HB 3090, the Preventing Nicotine Addiction Act, will go a long way to protect youth across Oregon from falling into tobacco and e-cigarette use, nicotine addiction, and the host of serious health consequences associated with their use.

Sincerely,
Clifford O. Chappell
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