

Submitter: Jonathan Christopherson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2528

Hello,

My name is Jonathan Christopherson, and I have been an active consumer of tobacco products since I was 18. I smoked cigarettes for many years, and made the transition to vaping shortly after they became more tested, and evidence was coming out of Europe and other countries about the benefits over smoking. I'm now 33, have worked in both the cannabis industry, and now the glass and tobacco product industry.

Being as there is no hard evidence about the health risks of vaping outweighing those of combusted tobacco, and the only other reasoning has been the appeal to children, I believe taking away the ability to sell and purchase flavored tobacco products will be detrimental to overall health of Oregon Residents and businesses who sell these products. Taking this choice out of the hands of adults of legal smoking age forces many people back onto combusted tobacco, and children will follow. I fully support current regulations, and even finding new ways to keep them out of the hands of children, but you can't blame a whole class of product for the irresponsible and illegal sales done by a select few retailers.

Also if we are drawing parallels, flavored nicotine products are no different from flavored cannabis or alcohol products. Plenty of cannabis brands use appealing flavors/colors/imagery that could all be influential on minors. The same can be said for plenty of alcohol products such as hard seltzers and soda's made by brands like Pepsi. If we are going to allow these other products then there is no reason we should be doing the same with nicotine products. Leave Oregonians the ability to choose between traditional tobacco and a different delivery system

Regards,
Jonathan Christopherson