

Submitter: Quinn Sellers
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB702

I am writing in opposition of SB Bill 702.

Starting with the broad definition of "Characterizing Flavor." Why are we taking away adults autonomy? Banning flavors is punishing adults for childish behavior. We don't ban sweet coated medications which mask the unpleasant flavor or ban coffee creamers when coffee is targeted towards adults. If you're going to ban nicotine ban nicotine but not something that gives it variety.

Flavored alcohol products, which carry similar risks, remain largely unregulated. There are White Claw and Twisted Tea television commercials and there hasn't been a single vaping commercial other than the ones condemning it as if it were on the same level as the opiate epidemic. This inconsistency raises questions about why nicotine products are being targeted while alcohol is not.

There's also the matter of the local economy which struggles every day. Banning these products could harm local businesses, cost jobs, and result in lost tax revenue. Consumers are turning to the internet as a means for purchasing after their favorite mom & pop shops close down unable to afford taxation of products, bans, or rent. Rather than banning flavored nicotine products, lawmakers should explore targeted solutions that focus on education, resources for those that struggle with addiction, verifying authentic product, and stricter age restrictions without penalizing responsible adult users.