

Submitter: Joshua Goins  
On Behalf Of: Freedom  
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB702

My name is Joshua M. Goins. I am the owner of Vapor Outlet, a small vape shop in Brookings Oregon. I'm writing this letter to express my opposition to SB702. I fully support an adult's right to choose to smoke or vape, and I support regulation over prohibition. However, I do not support children smoking or vaping anything.

Let's look at some facts here:

1. Prohibition of any controlled substance has never worked. It serves only to create a black market and make criminals of people who are otherwise law-abiding citizens. Prohibition creates organized crime, it hurts the economy, jobs and public health.
2. Speaking of black market, California is suffering from an epidemic of counterfeit vapes which are more toxic and poisonous than the legal vapes on the market. People are forced to go to counterfeits because there are no legal means to purchase a legal vape and people are going to vape whether its legal or not.
3. Regulation of the current market, should and could be overhauled, to create an environment which keep kids from getting vapes. When the fines are greater than the profits, shop owners will think twice before selling to a minor. ID scanners should be mandatory in any store that sell adult only products of any kind. Education is also key. Shop owners and shop employees should be made to take a test to get a tobacco license, similar to the OLCC test for selling liquor or marijuana.
4. Nicotine use is down in every age group, in every way you can possibly imbibe it. Youth vaping is down drastically in the last couple years. 2.13 million in 2023 down to 1.63 million in 2024 and continuing to decline. Smoking is way down, thanks in part to vaping, which is a healthier alternative to traditional cigarettes. Cigarette smoking is cut in half from the numbers it was at a decade ago.
5. in 2023, Oregon made \$511.2 million dollars from the tobacco tax. That is a massive windfall of money for the state. Are you really willing to give up that money? That money is used for many important programs across the state including OHP, ODOT and is also spread to cities and counties across the state.
6. A quick check shows roughly 3200 tobacco retailers in the state. You are going to force hundreds maybe a thousand of those businesses to close down. Thousands of people will lose their jobs. This is unacceptable. There has to be a better solution.

I personally own a vape shop. I have worked diligently to build this business. I am a trusted, welcomed and loved member of this community. I have worked hard to earn the clientele I have, creating relationships and friendships in this community. I am a responsible shop owner, I have measures in place to prevent underage purchases and I fully support keeping vapes from children. I care about putting out a good product and excellent customer service. Countless hours and all of my investment would be gone in an instant. I would be financially ruined. I am the main financial support for my family, I have considerable bills to pay. I could possibly lose my home, my cars etc. if can't pay my bills. This devastation would impact my family for years to come, in fact, for some, recovery from a loss like that would be impossible. The widespread damage this bill would cause is far worse than keeping vapes and flavored tobacco products legal. I support keeping it legal and putting better regulations in place, it's the ONLY thing that makes sense.

Taking away a person's right to decide for themselves is never a recipe for political success. In fact, it has proven disastrous time and time again. In America, the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is clearly stated in the Declaration of Independence. Taking away our rights, specifically our rights to decide what we do with our own bodies is fundamentally opposite to what makes us American.

Please, come to a reasonable solution. Regulation over prohibition!!

Thank you for your time.

Joshua M Goins

Vapor Outlet