

Submitter: Peter Reed

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB702

To the Oregon Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health:

In my daily work as a pediatrician, I talk frequently with teens about vaping. Despite Oregon's progress in restricting teen access to nicotine and tobacco products, including Tobacco 21 and retail licensing, I still have many teen patients who are addicted to nicotine.

When a teen patient reveals to me that they vape, in addition to engaging in motivational interviewing to try to get them to quit or reduce their use, I ask two other questions: How do you get your vapes? What's your favorite flavor?

The first question is usually answered with the explanation that it is a friend or friends who provide the vape to the teen.

The second, about their favorite flavor, often evokes a guilty smile. Every teen I've asked can tell me, without hesitation, which flavor got them hooked and which flavor(s) they use now. They tell me the flavors contribute to their use and addiction.

Vape manufacturers use flavors to make their products appealing. Adolescents and teens, whether they are being targeted deliberately or not, also find flavors appealing. Banning flavors in tobacco and nicotine products will reduce underage use and help to save thousands of Oregon kids from a lifetime of nicotine addiction.

I urge your support for SB 702.

Peter Reed, MD, MPH, FAAP
President, Pediatric Associates of the Northwest
Portland, Beaverton, and Tigard