



March 3, 2025

Teen Community Health Advocates is a youth coalition made up of students from Bend area high schools

Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health:

We are Sophomores from Bend and Summit High School, and members of Teen Community Health Advocates.

Flavors in inhalant delivery systems continue to be a key reason youth are attracted to them. Among Oregon high school students who use inhalant delivery systems exclusively, nearly 90% use flavored products. These products are also often easy to access. In Deschutes County, 56% of 11th grade students said it was easy to get vaping products.

This topic is important to me because I have had to watch several close friends struggle with vaping. I have watched vaping go from something they're just trying out, or joking about using, to something that causes major problems at home and school, sometimes in just a few months. Seeing that move into addiction and watching things crumble around them has been very hard, and is why I think we need to address this. Vaping isn't just a high school issue, either. I saw problems starting even in middle school, where it was common to see people vaping in groups in the bathroom, or hear them talking about vaping.

I've seen firsthand how flavored vapes make it way easier for people at school to start vaping without really thinking about the risks. The flavors make it seem harmless, but once people get hooked, quitting is a lot harder than they expected. A lot of my peers wouldn't have even tried vaping if it weren't for the flavors, so banning them could make a big difference in stopping that first step.

Prohibiting the sale of flavored inhalant delivery systems is an effective strategy to reduce youth nicotine use and prevent other potentially lifelong health consequences. On behalf of Teen Community Health Advocates and out of concern for our friends and peers struggling with addiction, I urge that you help end the sale of flavored inhalant delivery systems by supporting SB 702.

Sincerely,

Teen Community Health Advocates