

Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301
RE:Support for Senate Bill 702

Dear Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Anderson, and members of the Committee:

I've seen the drastic effects of flavored tobacco products and how it can not only damage a part of a person, but themselves as a whole. It simultaneously damages their physical, mental, and internal health, along with their overall wellbeing. I've seen kids at my highschool, only at the age of 14, and even before in middle school, get addicted to these flavored tobacco products and get sucked into the world of drugs. It is seen as harmless, especially since the flavors are relevant and intriguing to young adults, such as watermelon or other candy flavors, when really it is carcinogen that is feeding their lungs nicotine, and creating a potentially malignant force inside of them. The tobacco industry knows this, and the other physical and mental harms that come with these flavored tobacco products, and even with this knowledge, uses it to profit off of kids' addiction. Is that justifiable to you?

Thus, I strongly believe that passing Senate Bill 702, would decrease the long term damage these young people are doing to themselves and lessen the likelihood of addiction. Passing this bill would mean giving kids another chance at living a healthy life, where they aren't addicted to substances that its curators know are harming them, and a decreased risk of getting cancer. Passing this bill means saving our youth from a lifetime of harm. I had a friend who saw one of her greatest friends from childhood fall into the addiction of flavored tobacco products and spiral from there into the usage of other drugs. This eventually led to suspension from school, and a disruption in her education and health, that she could have had if these flavored tobacco products were banned. The tobacco industry knew this could happen, and yet keeps supporting it, consciously, with the sale of flavored tobacco products. This case, among many, isn't the worst. Flavored tobacco products destroy kids' lives.

Which is why I ask you this: do you want to be a perpetrator of a generation that is destroyed because of these products? When a step in not doing so is passing this bill? I leave

you with this question, and the urgent statement of passing Senate Bill 702, as it could not only save lives, but prevent a whole generation of youth from addiction, cancer, and irreversible damages.