

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

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Drishti Singh, and I am a junior at Lakeridge High School in Lake Oswego, Oregon. I am deeply involved in my community as a member of the Youth Leadership Council and as a student representative on the local school board.

Today, I am here with a concern of the widespread availability of flavored tobacco products and their harmful impact on youth. I urge you to support SB 702 to ban flavored tobacco products in our state.

Walking into a convenience store just 0.3 miles away from the middle school I attended—and where my younger sister now goes—I see shelves lined with bright, colorful packages of flavored tobacco products. This store is a frequent stop for students after school, making these addictive products clearly advertised to students. The enticing flavors—mango, cotton candy, and more—are designed to attract young users, turning them into lifelong consumers of harmful substances.

The health consequences of these products are severe. Many of my peers in Lake Oswego first experiment with tobacco through flavored vapes, leading to addiction and prolonged health risks. In 2022, a study on the Lake Oswego School District showed that for 78% of high schoolers who had recently used tobacco products, vapes and e-cigarettes were the first tobacco products they had used. This isn't just a statistic, it's a reality I see in my own community.

By passing SB 702, we can protect the next generation and create a healthier future for Oregonians. I urge you to take a stand for youth health and safety by supporting this bill.