

Dear Committee Members -

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to House Bill 702, which would ban the sale of flavored vapes in our great state.

While the bill may be well intentioned, I believe that the full effects of the bill have not been taken into consideration. When we look outside of our state to states that have enacted similar legislation, we find that the unintended consequences are many and put children and adults at more risk instead of the intended risk reduction.

As the proprietor of Inhale Exhale Smoke & Vape in Redmond, I've had a decade of opportunity to see first hand how beneficial flavored vapes have been for hundreds upon hundreds of our customers. I personally kicked cigarettes thanks to this technology, the mint has been my saving grace. 10 years without a single cigarette. My health has dramatically improved since kicking cigarettes. I invite you to spend a day speaking with our customers about how vaping has improved their lives. Talk to them about their flavor choices and why being forced to use something that triggers traditional cravings would severely hinder them in their desires to never return to combustible tobacco products.

There have been a multitude of studies across the world that have demonstrated, without a doubt, that vaping is no less than 95% healthier when compared to combustible tobacco products.

Kids that are exposed to secondhand smoke from combustible tobacco products suffer from a multitude of preventable ailments such as respiratory distress, asthma, respiratory infection, ear infections, SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome) and so many more. There is ample evidence that exposure to second hand vape byproducts is free of more than 100 chemicals, 70 of which are known to be carcinogenic, all of which are found in combustible tobacco products. Of course, we advocate for responsible vaping in which children are not exposed to any kind of second hand vapor but these statistics are important to consider when evaluating how tobacco and non tobacco forms of nicotine are consumed by a general population.

We again invite you to spend a day in our store to see first hand all of the safety measures that we've put into place to ensure that minors are not getting access to age restricted products. Everything is behind locked doors, we've invested in an expensive ID Scanner and subscription services that always keep us up to date, we've implemented a strict SCAN FAIL = NO SALE policy and much more. We feel that it's through committees such as yours, that we could work together to expand on these types of protection measures. Pass new legislation making all smoke & vape shops 21+, employee personal liability, requiring approved ID Scanners. We're very much open to discussion on all ways that we can work together to protect children while simultaneously protecting Oregonian adult's access to these important tobacco cessation options.

Please further consider that this bill's unintended consequences would also hurt Oregon's economy and put hundreds upon hundreds of people out of work. Oregon raises many millions of dollars annually, around \$200 plus million via taxes on vaping products. This money is badly needed to fund a myriad of projects, protect schools, healthcare for the most vulnerable, housing, etc. Erasing this revenue from the state's budget, when there are common sense alternatives would be a travesty on so many levels.

From all of us at Inhale Exhale, we sincerely hope that you'll work with us to expand upon and solidify youth protections while continuing to support Oregon adults who have benefited so greatly from our industry. We hope that you will consider and protect ALL parties involved. We urge you to oppose House Bill 702 and to work with us to create common sense solutions.

Best Regards,

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