

Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health  
Oregon State Senate  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Reynolds and members of the Committee,

As a mother, grandmother, and elected official, I am writing today in strong support of Senate Bill 702. Ending the sale of flavored tobacco is a common sense and reasonable action for the state to take to protect the health of Oregon's kids and communities.

As the first County in the state to pass an ordinance to end the sale of flavored tobacco products, Washington County is a proud leader in this effort. Tobacco's tactic of using flavored products – from candy-flavored e-cigarette products, to menthol cigarettes, and flavored shisha – to hook new users is obvious, and reflected in available data. According to the 2017 Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, in Washington County 21% of our high school students and 10% of our middle school students reported having used a tobacco or vaping product with mint, fruit, coffee, candy, or other flavors.<sup>1</sup>

Tobacco and nicotine products have serious, lifelong consequences that we are well aware of. In fact, tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in Oregon. The tobacco industry knowingly markets harmful products to our youth and communities of color, and uses fun flavors to do so. Local governments have been at the forefront of this issue for the past few years, and now it's time for the state to take action.

I urge your yes vote on Senate Bill 702.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam Treece". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Pam Treece

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<sup>1</sup> Oregon Health Authority (2017), 2017 Oregon Healthy Teens Survey. Retrieved from [http://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/SURVEYS/OREGONHEALTHYTEENS/Documents/2017/County/34\\_Washington.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/SURVEYS/OREGONHEALTHYTEENS/Documents/2017/County/34_Washington.pdf)