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

Testimony in Opposition to SB 702
Submitted to the Oregon State Legislature
March 2025

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 702, a bill that would impose unnecessary restrictions on harm reduction products that have been life-changing for myself and countless other adults in Oregon who have successfully quit smoking.

As someone who struggled for years to quit cigarettes using traditional methods — including nicotine patches, prescription medications, and counseling — I ultimately found success through the use of vapor products. These alternatives allowed me to gradually step away from smoking combustible tobacco, improve my health, and significantly reduce my exposure to harmful chemicals associated with cigarette smoke.

SB 702 threatens to take these tools away from adults who rely on them. By restricting access, flavor options, or affordability, the bill would make it harder for people like me to stay smoke-free. Many former smokers — myself included — were only able to quit cigarettes because of the availability of flavored vapor products and reasonable access to devices. Without these alternatives, there is a real risk that many adults will return to smoking, undoing years of personal progress and public health gains.

The reality is that adults deserve access to harm reduction options, and those options should not be limited by misguided legislation. Policies like SB 702 ignore the voices and experiences of former smokers who successfully transitioned away from cigarettes and now live healthier lives because of these products. This bill does not protect public health — it jeopardizes it.

I urge you to oppose SB 702 and instead support evidence-based approaches that prioritize harm reduction and the rights of adults to make informed decisions about their health.

Thank you for your consideration.