

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

I have many concerns about this proposal. On the surface it appears to be a responsible and comprehensive attempt to protect children. When one digs deeper into the issue it becomes evident that it had not been adequately researched in a number of areas.

It is almost hypocritical to want to 'protect children' when we are complicit in society, and government, in allowing exposure to far worse health considerations. Vast amounts of sugar is leading to obesity and diabetes at an unprecedented rate of increase. The food industry and sugar lobbies are reaping huge profits at the expense of children AND adults. In Europe McDonald's french fries contain one ingredient, potatoes. In the U.S. those same fries contain more than a dozen chemicals/additives!! The tobacco industry 'laces' many addictive chemicals to create addiction to their cigarettes! This is harmful to children AND adults... what are you doing about that?

Policies are already in place that regulate the sale of alcohol and tobacco to minors. Minors are not permitted into smoke shops, ID's are mandatory upon sale of vape products; it would be more prudent to reinforce/enforce such procedures. Make store owners and sales people more accountable if violations occur, financial liability speaks loudly.

Are you considering eliminating the many 'flavored' alcohol products that are on the shelves? These are quite easy to shoplift, or take out of Mom and Dad's refrigerator. Adults have the personal freedom to buy and consume alcohol and tobacco products. Is it consistent to take away the freedom to purchase these? Is this not hypocritical to ban this particular freedom?

Vape products are used by adults for many reasons. Studies in Europe show the use of these products in smoking cessation to be highly successful. Many adults want to quit smoking. Vaping allows them to do so incrementally as they reduce the levels of nicotine along the way. This is much more effective than going cold turkey, or using such things as patches. Vaping is also a relaxation and stress reduction activity. Adults should have the freedom of choice!!!

Are there plans to offset the huge economic impact of this action? These products are highly taxed and bring millions and millions of dollars into the state coffers. On-line sales will soar, black market sales will increase: people will find ways to continue. Financial impacts must be considered.

This bill is founded on an emotional and incomplete understanding of vaping. European studies are numerous and show a totally different reality than what we are led to believe. Studies have shown that this tactic fails to realize the intended health benefits. While those that are promoting this bill do so with a good heart and good

intentions it is evident that their emotions are forefront and sound research is not evident.

I urge you to do due diligence and really study the research available, consider the long-term ramifications, consider the unintended results.

I urge you to VOTE NO on this bill.

Sincerely,
Ron Rock