

Office Email
sen.kaysejama@oregonlegislature.gov

Legislative Website
www.oregonlegislature.gov/Jama



Capitol Phone
503-986-1724

Capitol Address
900 Court St. NE, S-223,
Salem, Oregon 97301

State Senator Kayse Jama

Senate District 24 (D-East Portland, Damascus, Boring)

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

I write to you today in support of SB 702, which would prohibit the distribution and sale of flavored tobacco products in the state of Oregon. Nearly every day, I hear from constituents about—and see firsthand—the health impacts of flavored tobacco on my community. This is already a public health crisis: thousands of Oregonians die every year as a result of smoking¹ As flavored tobacco products are strategically marketed to young people, under-regulated, and widely available, this death toll is likely to increase. By banning the sale and distribution of flavored tobacco products, SB 702 will protect Oregon’s youth and vulnerable populations against life-long addictions and chronic diseases.

According to the Oregon Health Authority, nine out of ten adult smokers report that their smoking habits started before the age of 18.² As teenage brains are still developing, they are extremely vulnerable to the highly addictive nicotine and have difficulty quitting the habit. Tobacco companies exploit the addiction susceptibility of young brains by targeting younger populations with sweet flavors like cotton candy and bubble gum. These companies also prey upon low-income communities, BIPOC communities, and people with mental health challenges, leading to disparities in smoking rates and health outcomes².

In addition to widening the health disparities in vulnerable and marginalized communities, there is also a slew of health implications concerning the use of flavored tobacco products. Not only do flavored vapes contain nicotine, a highly addictive chemical that can lead to increases in ADHD, depression, and anxiety symptoms but flavored vapes also contain many other harmful chemicals that can lead to lifelong diseases.³

Oregonians deserve to live long and healthy lives, but many have their lives cut short by the health implications of tobacco products. As legislators, it is our duty to protect public health and curtail the predatory marketing practices of tobacco companies that target Oregon youth.

I strongly urge your support for SB 702. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

¹ [Oregon Health Authority : Oregon Tobacco Facts : Tobacco Prevention : State of Oregon](#)

² [Oregon Health Authority : Oregon Tobacco Facts : Tobacco Prevention : State of Oregon](#)

³ [What's in an E-Cigarette? | American Lung Association; Nicotine Addiction and Psychiatric Disorders - PMC](#)