

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

My name is Theresa I was a smoker for 10 years as I started smoking at the age of 37 following a divorce. I have been smoke- free for 12 years and I used a vape to get here today. My partner of 12 years was a 2.5 pack a day smoker quit in 3 months and currently vapes it's been 10 years. Today he can hike, hunt, fish and do all those things that he couldn't do when smoking. The concerns I have are huge can you see them yet? I see them I see sickness and death at a much higher rate. Let us not forget that millions will go back to smoking and I would hope that this is a primary concern we all should have. Smoking has proven it kills and causes cancer since 1964. Why do kids start using drugs, alcohol, smoking, vaping? Stress, Family, or pressure? Have we not put enough restrictions out there. Serve our country at 18 but can't purchase nicotine until 21? Where have we wrong with laws and rules? Putting the tax dollars to good use in education, parenting and helping these family's would be greatly beneficial. I have seen these tax dollars continually used to fight the vape industry when they could help family's in other ways. Banning will bring bigger bigger issues and consequences. The uncertainty of the safety of the products coming in from black market and sold to adults and children terrifies me.

The vape industry continues to fight for the rights of the American people that are of legal age to make their own choices, who chose to quit smoking and use a product that they feel is much less harmful. They didn't want to quit smoking but they finally had a choice to get nicotine without so many carcinogen and disgusting smells. We have complied with the government through enforced regulations such as Clean Rooms and Child safety bottles, no sales online and working hard to keep the children out of the presence of vapes. All of which I agree with and will continue to support. I can't agree less with you on this ban as we know prohibition has never been the answer and never will be.

People have not only seen but felt the results of switching and how much it has changed their lives for the better. Yes, there are those that have adverse reactions to any products they use. I fortunately have not met anyone yet with any adverse problems from vaping to this day. I wish you could hear from those people we see daily and how vaping has changed their lives. It will always be hard for me to compare a "legal" cigarette that contains 7,000 chemicals 60 of which are known to be cancer causing carcinogens as being worse for the consumer then vaping.

I have helped thousands of people to quit smoking as well as vaping. The options

are endless, yes flavors and strength of nicotine play a huge part but this is how it has been possible for me and others to quit smoking. This week alone three customers switch to zero nicotine. I agree with having regulations to protect the children and the public and we continue to follow those rules and regulation enforced. I oppose this bill and stay hopeful that we can come together and agree that people have the right to chose.

Thank you for you time

Theresa