

March 4, 2025

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services  
FROM: Michelle Fuentes, Our Children Oregon  
Subject: Support for SB 702

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

My name is Michelle Fuentes. I am a Policy and Advocacy Intern with Our Children Oregon (OCO). OCO is a statewide nonprofit committed to whole child wellbeing through the Children's Agenda- a comprehensive legislative agenda created and supported by our over 135 member organizations across the state.

I am writing on behalf of concerned parents and citizens. Flavored cigarettes are becoming a common way for adolescents to cope with the stressors of home life and school. The flavored e-cigarettes have sparked the attention of youth due to the sweet, addicting taste and smell. They also have increased the risks for youth to try tobacco products for the first time. Working as a support staff at local middle school and high schools, I have seen many students smoking flavored cigarettes outside of school. In fact, "nearly 90 percent of youth e-cigarette users use flavored e-cigarettes, and more than 6,500 Oregon kids try cigarettes for the first time each year.<sup>1</sup>" The flavors make it enjoyable for the youth to use therefore if cigarettes were not flavored, the number of youth smoking cigarettes would decrease. **We urge a strong yes vote on SB 702.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://flavorshookoregonkids.org/>

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony,

Michelle Fuentes , Policy and Advocacy Intern, Our Children Oregon

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