

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

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 702, which would prohibit the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol and mint. As a concerned citizen, I believe this legislation is crucial to protect the health of our youth and prevent another generation from becoming addicted to nicotine.

The statistics are alarming:

Youth Appeal: 88% of youth e-cigarette users choose flavored products. These enticing flavors, like cotton candy and watermelon ice, are clearly designed to attract young people.

Addiction: Menthol cigarettes are particularly insidious, as they are more addictive and harder to quit than regular cigarettes.

Gateway: Flavored tobacco products often serve as a gateway to a lifetime of nicotine addiction, leading to serious health consequences like heart disease, lung cancer, and stroke.

While I may not have a personal story to share, I understand the devastating impact of tobacco addiction on individuals, families, and communities. It is our responsibility to protect our youth from the predatory tactics of the tobacco industry.

SB 702 is a critical step in the right direction. By ending the sale of flavored tobacco products, we can make these products less appealing to youth and help prevent nicotine addiction.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB 702. Thank you for your commitment to public health.

Sincerely,

Gail