

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

Dear Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Anderson, and members of the Committee:

My name is Daniel Eric Aguilar, and I am a student of Newport High School as well as a representative for PAADA (PartnerShip Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse) and OLHC (Oregon Latino Health Coalition). I'm writing in support of SB 702, which would ban Flavored commercial tobacco that would greatly help our schools in Oregon. Results from the 2024 Annual National Youth Tobacco Survey | FDA shows us that 90% of youth use flavored tobacco like watermelon ice and cotton candy to attract more youth each year. Flavored tobacco products can entice children and lead to nicotine addiction. Tobacco use is a leading cause of preventable death and disease in Oregon. Countries such as Washington and Multnomah have passed ordinances to ban Flavored Tobacco products so I believe that it should be statewide. Section 5: Youth Tobacco Use of the Oregon.gov OHA reveals that there is less regulation of tobacco products, cheaper costs of those products around a dollar making them affordable for youth, and more than half of Oregon 11th-graders (54%) report having seen advertising promoting tobacco or vaping products. Personally, I have witnessed through several encounters in the restroom groups of students using Flavored tobacco products which resulted in gender-neutral bathrooms for one of my campuses. Despite these efforts made by my school students still use these products in those new bathrooms which has resulted in several fire evacuations because of the smoke it emits. Ending the sale of flavored tobacco products is a reasonable step to take to protect the health of Oregon kids – and that's why we urge Oregon legislators to pass Senate Bill 702.

Thank you for your time,

Daniel Eric Aguilar