

## **Support for Senate Bill 702 – Restricting the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products**

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

My name is Dr. Angela Zallen and I am a pediatric hospitalist in Springfield, Oregon. I take care of kids with medical needs requiring hospitalization. I am writing today to strongly urge you to support Senate Bill 702, which seeks to prohibit the sale of all flavored tobacco products that have significant long-term impacts on the health of Oregon's youth.

Flavored tobacco products, particularly flavored e-cigarettes, are clearly and deliberately marketed to young people, pulling them into nicotine addiction that can be lifelong. As a physician, I have seen firsthand the devastating impact of early tobacco use, from respiratory issues like e-cigarette associated lung injury to long-term addiction. E-cigarette or vaping associated lung injury (EVALI) has affected thousands of people and caused dozens of deaths since e-cigarettes were introduced and 15% of people who experienced EVALI were under the age of 18. Children and teens are particularly vulnerable to the effects of nicotine that can impair cognitive function, increase susceptibility to addiction, and set the stage for lifelong health complications. Contrary to what many believe, e-cigarettes are not healthier than combustible cigarettes. Restrictions on the sale of flavored tobacco have been enacted in other states, like Massachusetts and California, with encouraging results including a dramatic decline in e-cigarette use, but also a decline in combustible cigarette use as well.

By passing SB 702, Oregon can take a meaningful stand against youth tobacco use and safeguard public health. I implore you to prioritize the health and well-being of our children over the interests of the tobacco industry and vote in favor of this bill.

Thank you for your time and commitment to protecting Oregon's youth.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Angela Zallen, MD, MPH  
Pediatric Hospitalist