

I was very disappointed in much of the testimony from those who support sb 702.

To watch Doctors, "experts" and elected officials engage in obvious distortion and manipulation to push their agenda was disheartening and, quite frankly, outright dishonesty on the committee floor.

First, elected officials using 2019 youth smoking statistics when 2024 is readily available is dishonest. 2024 was the lowest youth smoking statistics EVER recorded. With 1.4% of students smoking cigarettes and 5.9% of using vapes. In comparison, in 2011, as vapes hit the market, 12% of students smoke cigarettes!

Today that's 1.4%! That's incredible and far from an emergency, instead it shows how vaping has destroyed the tobacco industry.

Next, from Dr's to "experts" to elected reps, they all kept using the state of Massachusetts ban from 2020 in an attempt to support this prohibition. Claiming that the numbers "lowered" after the ban without ever offering statistics. Wonder why?! The numbers went down in Massachusetts but less than the national average, as they did in all states, regardless of a ban. That said, Massachusetts is a prime example of why this bill is shortsighted and will have unintended consequences.

Massachusetts student smoking rates have been on the rise the last 2 years, bucking the national trend. In 2023, 2.9% of Massachusetts students smoked cigarettes, in 2024, that number has risen to 3.4% of students smoking cigarettes...2.5 times the national average!

On top of that, vaping, numbers in Massachusetts among students are also increasing....from 17.6% in 2023 to 18.3% in 2024, 3 TIMES the national average with a flavor ban in place for almost 5 years.

All of that while Massachusetts has lost over 150 million in revenue, 9% of purchases are now on the rising black market, 6% of users in Massachusetts are now mixing their own flavors (which can be highly dangerous), and online sales have exploded while brick and mortars are shut down.....with ABSOLUTELY ZERO HEALTH BENEFITS!

I would also like to remind Dr. Javadi, the health impact numbers he correctly stated are from combustible tobacco smoking and not vaping. This bill will lead to more combustible tobacco smoking as clearly

evidenced by the data.

I would like to remind the committee that flavored vaping is the greatest cessation product ever created by mankind. I implore you to reconsider the banning and prohibition of a product that, according to our own National Institute of Health studies, will save almost 7 million lives by the end of the century. That's thousands of oregonians every decade!

We could mitigate the problems caused by this bill with some easy and pragmatic solutions, such as an amendment to allow flavored products in 21 and over stores only. This would protect revenue, protect the livelihood of thousands of oregonians, the health of thousand of smokers and the prevention of a black market, while still impacting youth availability by pulling it

out of the convenience store and grocery market.