

Hello my name is Amin Daher and I am here in support of Senate Bill 702 and would like to address Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Anderson, and members of the committee.

As a concerned citizen, I am supportive of prohibiting the sale, distribution, offer for sale, or attempted offer for sale of flavored inhalant delivery system products and flavored tobacco products in our state. I believe it is essential to the health and well-being of our community and particularly our children.

Flavored tobacco and e-vapor products are designed particularly to be appealing, especially to young people. The sweet and fruit flavors mask the pungency of nicotine and other harmful chemicals, creating the false impression that the products are safe. This aggressive promotion has fueled the epidemic of youth vaping and smoking, reversing decades of gains in reducing smoking rates. The products are addictive and have long-term health consequences, including respiratory ailments, heart disease, and all types of cancer.

The reasoning that these flavors are just a matter of individual taste overlooks the predatory aspect of the industry and the devastating impact that these products have on individuals and families. This isn't about restricting individual liberty; this is about maintaining public health and preventing addiction. We owe it to ourselves to create a healthier world for our kids and future generations.

Moreover, the expense of treating diseases caused by tobacco is considerable. Prohibiting flavored products can cut these expenses and release the money for other essential healthcare services.

I urge our legislators to favor this ban and the health of our community over the tobacco and e-cigarette industry's profit. It is a necessary step in keeping our youth safe, enhancing public health, and providing a healthier future for all.

Sincerely,
Amin