

Hello Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Anderson, members of the committee my name is Marwa Daher, and I am writing to you today on behalf of Upstream Public Health & The Tobacco Free Coalition of Oregon to support Senate Bill 702 to end the sale of flavored commercial tobacco products.

It all started when flavored tobacco products found their way into the hands of many young people, drawn by the sweet appeal of flavors like strawberry, watermelon, and vanilla. But with the growing popularity came the consequences. What seemed like a harmless experience began to take its toll. Some of the teenagers started feeling the effects. A few experienced shortness of breath after even the smallest exercise. Others began to develop persistent coughs. At first, they brushed it off as nothing more than allergies or a cold, but it didn't go away. The products were engineered to be easy to use, sweet to the taste, and hard to resist. Flavored tobacco has been used excessively in my community, and because these products are readily available, young people can develop a taste addiction to them. I support the SB702 Bill because the number of young people in my community who use flavored tobacco has increased, and many people develop asthma and other respiratory illnesses as a result of their exposure to tobacco smoke.