

Submitter: Favor Larson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB702

I am a 47 year old former traditional cigarette smoker who transitioned to vaping many years ago. I have felt better, been able to breath better, cough less and love that I can get options that are not as gross as traditional tobacco. I oppose the banning of flavored vape products. The sole argument against flavored vapes seems to be due to youth accessing it. Currently vaping is already restricted to adults over the age of 21, and the only entity to get penalized is the store owner if a sale is made to a minor. Before you ban an entire industry just because a few children are getting a hold of it, you should create penalties for kids caught vaping and the adults who supply them. This is an issue of bad parenting and should not negatively impact the adults who should have access to product. Under this fear, are we going to ban anything that is dangerous and not meant for kids?

The alcohol industry has fruit and candy flavored options, are allowed to market their products and package them in fun and colorful ways - why is this allowed but not for vaping? Are we also going to ban gambling, porn, alcohol, marijuana, spray paint, guns, cars, etc just because kids should not be able to use them? Life is dangerous - when a product has been deemed dangerous, such as weed killer, we are allowed to just slap a label on it saying it is dangerous, perhaps add an age restriction to it, and then continue to sell and use it. Kids are exposed to dangerous chemicals, microplastics, etc on a daily basis, this is shortsighted and an overreach to ban the whole industry. I live in Medford, which was named as the city in the US with the worst air quality in the entire country due to the forest fire smoke we are regularly exposed to. Should we also ban kids from living in Medford, or the entire state, because we tend to have bad air quality? When does the overreach stop? What about caffeine, sugar or refined flour? All of those are addictive and not good for you, but they are allowed.

In addition, the idea that you will allow tobacco flavored vaping makes no sense. The tobacco flavor is just that, a flavoring that is added to the vaping liquid, there is no reason that any other flavor should be allowed, as they are also "flavorings". I do not know of anyone who actively wants to choose tobacco flavoring. Why is only 1 flavor OK, but all others will be banned? Adults also like to enjoy fruity and candy flavors, saying that only kids like this is short sighted.

I do not have children, the stores that I purchase vapes from do not allow anyone under 21 in their store and they ID everyone for every purchase, they are taking every step possible to not sell to minors. Why don't you hold parents

accountable for their kids actions? Why aren't the kids and adults supplying the vapes penalized? America is about free trade, capitalism and choice. This unfair restriction on adults is unacceptable and you should find other means to prevent kids from vaping.