

Submitter: Ruby Weigler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB702

Chair Meek, Vice Chair McLane, and members of the Committee:

My name is Ruby Weigler. I am 14 years old and will be starting at Franklin High School in Portland, Oregon this fall. Senator Taylor is my state senator.

I am here today to urge you to pass Senate Bill 7-0-2 Dash A. Young people today are still vulnerable to the marketing of tobacco products, particularly those with flavors. Restricting access to the products to adults-only retailers is a clear, effective way to look out for young people like me.

Next year I'll be entering high school. It's a big step in the transition from being a kid to being an adult. I will have a chance to make new friends and explore new things. Too many start experimenting in high school with tobacco - particularly flavored products - that can put them on a path to nicotine addiction.

One young person I know, like many other kids, had struggled with mental health issues and turned to vaping flavored tobacco to cope. He became a regular user, only contributing to further decline in his physical and mental health. Allowing easy access to these products has led him and others to damage their health.

As legislators, it's your responsibility to protect me and other kids from making bad decisions that we'll come to regret. Senate Bill 702A is a simple, straightforward way to do that. I urge you to vote yes and make this the law in Oregon.

Thank you,

Ruby Weigler