

Submitter: Nicole Dunn
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB702
ERE: Senate Bill 702

Dear Senate Committee,

My name is Nicole. I am a wife and a mother to four children, all of whom were born and raised in Oregon. I am a proud employee of a small tobacco shop in Saint Helens. This shop is owned by a wonderful married couple. It is because of them employing me that I am able to put food on the table for my family. I thoroughly enjoy my job. I love interacting with customers, engaging with my community, and tending to the everyday responsibilities of running a shop. I strongly oppose SB702 and am grateful for the opportunity to explain my reasoning.

As a mother to four children, the health and safety of our youth is of utmost importance to me. I hear from my kids on a daily basis about how their friends are using vapes. But I also hear from them about how their friends are using marijuana, prescription drugs, alcohol, and other illicit substances. Yet, Oregon has not banned marijuana or alcohol, and substances that are banned are still finding a way into the hands of our children. It is for this reason that I believe that banning flavored tobacco products is unnecessary and would be an ineffective factor in the availability of these products to teens and children. You need to come up with a better idea for keeping harmful substances away from our youth. Banning legally-aged adults from purchasing flavored tobacco products in Oregon is not the way to go.

Passing SB702 would have a horrible impact on my family. Because the shop I work at relies heavily on the sale of flavored tobacco products, this ban would put the business at risk, and therefore my employment at risk. There are hundreds, if not thousands of other shops in Oregon that also rely on the sale of flavored tobacco products. SB702 would have a far-reaching and devastating effect on the employment of thousands of Oregonians and their ability to support their families.