

Submitter: Gurmail Kaur  
On Behalf Of: C - Store  
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB702

### My Name Is Gurmail Kaur — And This Ban Is Destroying My Small Business

My name is Gurmail Kaur, and I've owned a small convenience store in Oregon for over a decade. I'm not a lobbyist. I'm not a big business owner. I'm a mother, a wife, and a part of my community. I've worked 7 days a week for years, often from early morning to late at night, just to keep my store running — just to give my children a better life.

When I first opened my store, I knew it wouldn't make me rich, but I believed in hard work. I believed in treating customers with kindness and building something I could be proud of. And I have. My store isn't just a place to buy things — it's where neighbors gather, where I know most people by name, and where I've always followed the law. I check IDs — no exceptions. I don't sell to kids, and I never would.

But now, because of Senate Bill 702A, I'm being treated like I'm doing something wrong — simply for selling legal, regulated products like flavored vapes and Zyn to adults who choose to use them.

These products make up a huge portion of my store's income. Not because I push them on people — but because that's what adult customers choose over cigarettes. Many of them are trying to quit smoking. They come to me because they trust me, and they know I run an honest business.

Now they have to go online — where there's no face-to-face ID check — or they drive far away to other areas where the law doesn't apply. And me? I'm left with shelves full of unsellable inventory, and bills I can't pay.

In just a few months, I've lost thousands of dollars in sales. I've had to cut hours, let go of staff, and watch my dream slowly collapse — not because I broke the rules, but because lawmakers won't distinguish between a small, responsible C-Store like mine and illegal sellers who don't care about the rules at all.

I want lawmakers to understand something: we are not the problem. We are part of the solution. We're on the front lines. We're the ones who can help enforce responsible access — but only if we're allowed to survive.

Taking away flavored nicotine sales from stores like mine doesn't make the products go away. It just drives them underground — or to big online retailers with no

accountability — and pushes small business owners like me out of the picture entirely.

I'm not asking for special treatment. I'm asking to be treated fairly. I'm asking to keep my store alive. I'm asking you to listen to the people this law is hurting the most — small business owners, community members, mothers like me.

Please don't let Senate Bill 702A — or anything like it — destroy everything I've built.

Sincerely,  
Gurmail