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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB702

I want to start by saying i am a Father of 3 who are in their teenage years. I parent my children by teaching them right from wrong, whats good and whats bad and that every action starts with a choice and ends with a consequence.

The age old argument has always been about the children. We feel the need to save them from the inevitability of choices and protect them from harm. While it is understandable to want this it is also understandable to know that no matter how hard you may try we can not control every choice our children make.

Prohibiting the sales of flavored inhalant delivery systems will not prevent our children from obtaining such products. It will push them in a direction to obtain these products from far more dangerous and harmful sources whether it be the black market or from a guy who knows a guy that makes or sells them illegally.

Growing up we have seen first hand the consequences of ours and others choices. I personally have witnessed friends and peers obtain harmful products such as various types of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Flavored or not it did not matter. The point is that it was obtained whether it was legal or not and that whether or not it tasted good made no difference in making the choice to use it.

As adults we have the right to indulge in flavored products. Whether that be alcohol, tobacco or even foods and candy. Theres an even bigger argument to be had about long and short term harmful health effects of food and candy alone that children have full access to purchase with no restrictions.

Flavored alcohol is sold in local groceries stores, gas stations and convenient stores and it is left up to the stores to prevent underage purchases. Proper identification checks and verification of age requirements are all that is needed to purchase alcohol flavored or not. Why should tobacco products be any different? It shouldn't be. Prohibiting the sales of flavored tobacco products is wrong.

Allow adults their freedom to choose. Allow adults to parent their children.