

My name is Charlie Moses, and I grew up in Multnomah County. I am a fourth-generation Portlander and a graduate of David Douglas High School. I am submitting this written testimony in strong support of SB 1571 on behalf of Parents Against Vaping, a national organization with Oregon volunteers dedicated to protecting the health and well-being of young people.

I attended schools in the David Douglas School District in East County Portland from kindergarten until I dropped out during my junior year of high school. Today, I am pursuing a doctorate in Medical Anthropology, motivated by a desire to address the substance use issues that caused profound harm in my own life and in the lives of my family, friends, and community.

Tobacco addiction has deeply affected generations of my family. I watched tobacco use slowly and painfully take my grandfather's life, a process that was long, brutal, and devastating, not just for him, but for everyone who loved him. I also watched family members, friends, partners, and classmates pick up smoking after being targeted at incredibly young ages – starting as early as fifth and sixth grade – and later struggle to quit. More recently, I've watched many of the same people be targeted again through the new flavored tobacco products on the market, often marketed as safer alternatives.

It is extremely clear that Big Tobacco is once again targeting youth and marginalized communities, this time through flavored and underregulated nicotine products. These companies exploit gaps in regulation to market reach young people through social media influencers, youth-oriented advertising, and messaging that minimizes real health risks. The result is a new generation being exposed to nicotine addiction before they are old enough to understand its long-term consequences.

The public health costs of nicotine addiction are enormous. Oregon spends millions of dollars every day addressing tobacco-related illness. These costs are borne by taxpayers, families, and already strained healthcare systems. My grandfather's death alone required extensive medical care and resources, and it is not a fate I want for my siblings, cousins, friends, or future generations.

SB 1571 represents an important step toward protecting youth and communities from predatory marketing and preventable addiction. There is no legitimate public health justification for products that addict children and young adults, except to secure lifelong customers for billion-dollar corporations.

I urge you to support SB 1571 and prioritize the health, dignity, and futures of Oregon's children and families over the profits of the tobacco and vaping industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration.