

Hello,

I would like to first thank you for taking the time to read this. I am an ex-smoker of 30+ years. I have tried everything imaginable to try to stop smoking. Gum, patches, step down methods, you name it. I even started chewing to try and stop thinking that would be easier. Let me tell you the out comes.

Gum - Still smoked while chewing it. Did not like the taste and did not get the satisfaction I needed to curb the need for nicotine.

Patches - Still smoked while wearing it even with the warnings. Did not get the satisfaction I needed to curb the need for nicotine.

Step Down Method - Actually the closest I came but I had no where to go after I got to the lowest tar and nicotine. Ended up going back to my regular brand due to price.

Cold Turkey - Honestly, did not have the will power.

Why did I start in the first place? I started smoking at 13 years of age and it was due to friends that were smoking not the flavors or packaging. I did not care what the camel looked like. I did not want to be the Marlboro Man, I thought I was cool and I became addicted, plain and simple.

Now with that being said I have been cigarette/tobacco free for over a month now. This is entirely due to vaping (ecigs). I am able to use a product that I have researched in depth that is a much healthier alternative to cigarettes. I have finally found an alternative that delivers the nicotine in a way that will curb my need. It also helps with the oral fixation that most smokers miss. Unless you have smoked you will not understand how important the actual act of smoking is to the brain. I now feel better, I can smell more, taste more and breath better. I no longer wake up coughing with my lungs filled with God knows what. In one month I am a healthier person. I have already destroyed most of my teeth from bone loss due to smoking. I needed to make a better choice and vaping was how I accomplished that. I am currently lowering my amount of nicotine that I use while vaping in hopes that I will be able to get to a 0 nicotine vape and be done with nicotine all in all.

I do agree that this should not be available to minors any more than cigarettes are. Although to me that, inhaling, and the nicotine are the only two things that I would consider the same as cigarettes. I hate that they are even called ecigs. My vaping devices look nothing like a cigarette. I know there are ones that do but they are usually only used until a person can get used to another piece of equipment. But if it can get them off of cigarettes/tobacco then I do not care what they look like.

I feel that it should be up to the establishment as to whether or not they allow vaping. There is no 2nd hand smoke worries since there is no smoke even though it appears as it is. I am sure you have had many tell you that this is a harmless vapor that is being emitted. Personally, I do not vape in my house because I have a small child. This is my choice but I am not afraid it would harm him. There are enough studies out there that prove that the "2nd hand" vapor does not produce harmful chemicals when exhaled.

I personally do not trust all of the ejuice that is available so I have (as most vapers have) done my

research on places that are reputable and produce organic clean ejuice. I have also started making my own to ensure that I know what I am inhaling. All in all I am proof that this works and to bring legislation that would lump vaping in with cigarettes could be more harmful than good. People need to be educated on the differences of vaping vs. cigarettes so they know how it is actually helping.

My one last point is that this is a Billion dollar a year industry. Let's embrace it and use it for what it was intended. To get away from tobacco and live a healthier cleaner life. and create more jobs in the process.

Thank you again for your time and please vote no on this initiative and rewrite one for the sales to minors.

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Jason Reynolds

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