

Testimony HB 2546 - Aileen Sarabia , *Rebels For A Cause*

My name is Aileen Sarabia I'm 18 years old and I'm a senior in Clackamas High School. Being a part of Rebels these last two years has impacted my life in ways I never imagined. I initially joined rebels to prevent students and peers from smoking because I have seen what tobacco can do to a body first hand. My uncle and grandpa were smokers and even as a child I could see the detrimental effect on their lives. As time went by, The Rebels have grown and expanded along with its influence. I am proud of this team and all we have accomplished. House Bill 2546 is important to me in particular because of the children in my life. This includes my two little brothers, my little cousins, and also the middle school students we reach out to as rebels. Knowing each of them can go to a drugstore and buy an e-cigarette without any restrictions is concerning. With no FDA approval, children and their developing bodies can easily be poisoned by e-cigarettes as far as we know. Adults should be able to decide if they want this poison in their bodies, but children who are so oblivious and know nothing of the effects of tobacco, should in no way be affected. I don't feel comfortable in my community thinking that kids younger than me are experimenting and trying e-cigarettes out with no reinforcement on the use of them. Because of the different and colorful flavors that the tobacco companies have recently produced, more and more children are going to be inclined on trying them. With their packaging looking like candy, the tobacco companies fool children into thinking its nothing harmful to them, which we know it is the complete opposite of what

they're depicting. This bill would be helpful in communities all over Oregon, by letting kids know e-cigarettes could be potentially dangerous, so they're more inclined to staying away from them. This will promote more tobacco free bodies, and healthy lungs for all. This is important to me because it will protect the children in my life as well as promote a healthy lifestyle for children all over Oregon.