



STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 25

SB 415 A
Banning Flavored Tobacco Products

SB 415A prohibits distributing, selling or allowing to be sold flavored tobacco products in Oregon.. We have worked so hard to prevent tobacco use among our youth, and need to continue to promote a healthy lifestyle for all Oregonians.

Under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, the sale of flavored cigarettes containing any characterizing flavors other than menthol is illegal as of September 22, 2009. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is currently examining options for regulating both menthol cigarettes and flavored tobacco products other than cigarettes.

Eliminating flavored tobacco products is just one more tool to eliminate a cancer causing product. Flavored tobacco products have become increasingly common in the United States. These products, containing flavors like vanilla, orange, chocolate, cherry and coffee, and are especially attractive to youth. They are widely considered to be "starter" products, establishing smoking habits that can lead to a lifetime of addiction. Like all tobacco products, flavored tobacco products have serious health risks and are not considered safe by the FDA.

Youth are attracted to flavored products. The tobacco industry has a history of clear patterns of designing flavored tobacco products to target youth. It's a well-known fact that teenagers like sweet products. Bubblegum and honey and peppermint are some of the many flavors you can buy.

All tobacco products, including flavored tobacco products are as addictive and carry the same health risks as regular tobacco products. An estimated 443,000 Americans die prematurely each year due to smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke. More deaths are caused each year by tobacco use than by all deaths from human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), illegal drug use, alcohol use, motor vehicle injuries, suicides and murders combined. Smoking causes many types of cancer, as well as heart disease and chronic lung diseases like emphysema. Smokeless tobacco products cause gum disease and cancers of the mouth.

I urge you to do your work here in the revenue committee, and pass SB 415A.

