

Chair Monnes-Anderson and members of the committee,

My name is Madisen Campbell, I am a junior at Beaverton High School, I am here today to encourage you to support raising the age of sale of all tobacco to 21 and protect other 16 year olds like myself from a lifetime addiction to tobacco.

I learned to associate the smell of smoke with love of my grandpa. When I was young, I didn't know what my grandpa was doing was bad, I thought it was normal.

My grandpa started smoking before he was 18. He was able to walk to his corner store of his small town, appear to be 18, and buy a pack every day. He was 16, like me. He continued to use tobacco until he was 55. Due to getting addicted to tobacco early, my grandfather was a statistic of a lifetime smoker. He developed gum cancer at 60. I watched him lose his teeth and saw the emotional effects of having to be at the mercy of his doctors to support his journey.

If the age to buy tobacco was at 21, it could have prevented his habit that chased him every day of his life, that in the end gave him cancer and changed his perspective. His story is not unique to the deadly consequences of getting addicted to tobacco at a young age.

If you are given the opportunity, I urge you to support raising the age of tobacco to 21. I do not want to see any more of my peers getting addicted to tobacco and end up later like my grandfather.

Thank you for your time,

Maddie Campbell