

Dear Chair Monnes-Anderson and members of the committee,

My name is Madeline Swint, I am a junior at Beaverton High School and part of the providence rebels. I am here today to encourage you to support raising the age of sale of all tobacco to 21.

Tobacco, like many others, has touched my life negatively. Tobacco use is the number one cause of cancer and my grandfather was a victim of this. At the age of 10, my grandfather started smoking. Like many young adults his age, tobacco use was part of his everyday life. It was not until he was 65 that his life-time use of tobacco use caused him to develop colon cancer and suffered a stroke. I was too young to comprehend what was going on, but I recall not being able to spend time with him because of the emotional stress the cancer brought on him. His fifty-five year addiction was something that not only impacted him, but our whole family.

Young adults already have to deal with copious amounts of stress trying to juggle their education, relationships, jobs, and thinking about their futures. Adding an addiction that will wreak havoc on their free time, bank accounts, social lives, reputations and their health will only enhance the extensive amounts of worry and anxiety that teens struggle with every day.

By raising the age of sale of all tobacco, we will help reduce the rate of smokers and preventable deaths. It will benefit how this generation teaches the next, and will cause a pattern of healthy life habits demonstrated by humanity far into the future. If you are given the opportunity, I urge you to support raising the age of tobacco to 21.

Thank you.

Madeline Swint