



February 05 2020

Teen Community Health Advocates is a youth coalition made up of students from Bend area high schools

**Recommendation: Support Oregon SB 1577**

Dear Senator Monnes Anderson,

From 2016 to 2018, the number of Deschutes County 11th graders using e-cigarettes, vape pens, or e-hookahs increased from 19.2% to 29.4% (Oregon Student Wellness Survey). Of those, 4 out of every 5 youth reported using flavored products (National Institutes of Health). SB 1577 prohibits the retail sale of these products in Oregon, and can help flip the script on underage nicotine use.

As high school students, we walk into our campus bathrooms and wait for the cloud of cotton candy vapor to hit us like a wall. On any given day, we might find Juul pod wrappers or discarded Puff Bars littering the parking lot. While to some adults, these brand names may seem foreign, for us, "vape juice" can stain every corner of our lives.

When JUUL pulled their iconic mango pods from retail stores, vaping didn't magically stop. It simply moved, to the next available hit of flavored nicotine. Kids followed the flavors, and their addiction followed too.

These stories are echoed throughout school hallways. 43.3% of eighth graders and 70.4% of eleventh graders reported that they had seen someone smoking, vaping, or juuling tobacco on school property (Deschutes Wellness Survey).

But its use is completely avoidable.

On behalf of Teen Community Health Advocates and our friends and peers struggling with addiction, we urge that you help end the sale of flavored inhalant delivery systems **by supporting Oregon SB 1577**.

Sincerely,

Gabriella Shirtcliff  
Community Health Advocate