

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Deb Patterson  
Chair, Senate Health Care Committee  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 2261

Dear Senator Patterson and members of the committee:

For the record, my name is Priyanka Kumar. I'm a student at Westview High School in Portland, Oregon, and a member of Providence Rebels. I am here today to ask for your support for House Bill 2261.

House Bill 2262 is important because it limits the access youth and young adults have to e-cigarettes. This bill gets rid of a source of e-cigarettes, making it more difficult for the youth to acquire them. A parent's or older sibling's credit card becomes void, useless. To further add to the importance of House Bill 2262, one in four 11-graders in Oregon use a vaping nicotine product, and the youth use of e-cigarettes increased to 80 percent between 2017 and 2019. Eliminating the online sale of e-cigarettes will help to battle addiction.

I know a lot of people and had many friends who vape and use e-cigarettes. I saw how my friends changed as they became addicted to nicotine. One of my friends, and the rest, did next to anything to get their hands on a vape. Buying online, getting it through a friend, going as far as to steal one from a convenience store. I have firsthand experience of how e-cigarettes affect the lives of people my age. Thus, I believe House Bill 2261 will help combat this epidemic.

Finally, I thank the committee for the time taken to listen to my testimony. I urge you all to take into consideration what I have said today. House Bill 2261 will give youth and young adults all over Oregon the first steps to take their life back.

Sincerely,

Priyanka Kumar  
Westview High School