

Submitter: Richard Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3090

Dear State Representative,

As a small business owner with over 20 years of experience in the smoking and vaping industry, I am deeply concerned about the proposed ban on flavored nicotine delivery devices. I have always been committed to ensuring that my store operates within the bounds of the law, and I am proud to say that I have never sold a vape to a minor.

I am also pleased to inform you that my store has recently undergone a state inspection with an underage sting and has passed with flying colors. This inspection serves as a testament to my unwavering commitment to safety and compliance.

I understand the importance of protecting our youth from harmful substances, but I strongly believe that a blanket ban on flavored nicotine delivery devices is not the solution. It is important to note that ALL of my customers are adults who have made a conscious decision to switch to vaping as a means of harm reduction.

I would think that if we ban flavored vapes, then we should also ban all the different strains of cannabis because those clearly attract children. Same with white-claw and flavored alcohol, that's very attractive to kids. Flavored soda-pop should be banned to protect kids?

I believe that this ban unfairly punishes responsible business owners like myself and deprives adult smokers of a safer alternative to smoking. Instead of a blanket ban, I urge you to consider alternative measures that target the root cause of youth vaping, such as stricter enforcement of age restrictions and cracking down on online retailers who sell to minors.

I respectfully ask that you reconsider this proposed ban on flavored nicotine delivery devices and work towards implementing more targeted measures to protect our youth, **SUCH AS MAKING VAPES ONLY AVAILABLE IN SHOPS THAT ARE 21+**, while supporting responsible business owners like myself.

If this ban passes, my business **WILL CLOSE AND ALL MY EMPLOYEES WILL BE LOST. ALL THAT \$ WILL GO INTO THE BLACK MARKET!!!**

It is nuts to take away the control over a heavily taxed and enforced industry and hand it to the black market. I don't think legislators understand the backlash from the

hypocrisy of saying “My body, my choice,” and then turning around and saying government will control what you put in your body. In the name of children....

I am usually on the local TV news when these issues arise. I will be sure to have people let you know how important taxing and regulating is rather than creating a giant black market that will make it easier for kids to get vapes. Kids in Californian now have organized crime rings delivering cases of vapes to school parking lots. Is that somehow not going to happen here? This is a very important question. Did we not make cannabis legal to tax what was blackmarket? Now you think a legal ban will stop kids from vaping?

Thank you for your consideration.