

To the House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care,

I'm just a regular user of these products; nonetheless, I can easily provide a strong argument in opposing a flavored nicotine products ban and I will point out the inconsistencies of their ban and its arguments.

First and foremost, banning flavored nicotine products would be counterproductive in the fight against tobacco-related harm. It is a well-established fact that nicotine is addictive, and tobacco products are incredibly harmful to human health. However, flavored nicotine products, such as e-cigarettes or nicotine pouches have been shown to cause a very small fraction of the harms from combustible cigarettes. This is because they do not contain the harmful chemicals found in cigarette smoke, which is known to cause cancer, heart disease, COPD, and other health problems.

Furthermore, flavored nicotine products have been proven to be an effective tool for adults looking to quit smoking. The range of flavors available can help users gradually reduce their nicotine intake, ultimately leading to a smoke-free life. By banning flavored nicotine products, lawmakers risk discouraging smokers from quitting altogether and push them back towards traditional tobacco products.

Moreover, it's also important to note the double standard when it comes to the regulation of nicotine products versus other substances. Flavored THC products and flavored alcohol are both legally sold pretty much everywhere, despite the significant risks associated with their use. THC is known to have harmful effects on mental health, and alcohol is known to be highly addictive and can cause severe health problems when consumed in excess.

By banning flavored nicotine products and not other flavored substances, lawmakers are sending a message that nicotine is somehow more dangerous than other substances, which is simply not true. This inconsistency in regulation undermines the credibility of the legislative process and highlights the need for a more nuanced and evidence-based approach to substance regulation.

In summary, banning flavored nicotine products would be a counterproductive move that ignores the benefits of harm reduction and the value of flavored products in helping people quit smoking. Additionally, the inconsistency in the regulation of flavored substances underscores the need for a more evidence-based and rational approach to substance regulation.

Thank you so much to take the time to read this