

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
Meeting date: March 21, 2023 5 pm
In support of HB 3090

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Skye Larsen. I am a young woman from Troutdale, Oregon. I am writing in support of HB 3090, the Preventing Nicotine Addiction bill, which will protect our kids and our communities by ending the sale of all flavored tobacco products in Oregon.

As a recent graduate of college in an era where more people around me who are my age vape than don't I see firsthand how addictive and dangerous they are. I work in the Public Health field now and I look often at the many statistics that support the overarching harm caused by Big Tobacco's products.

- 95% of adults who smoke report they started before they could legally purchase tobacco.
- 85% of Black smokers use menthol cigarettes, compared to only 29% of white smokers who use menthols.
- Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Oregon – killing more than 8,000 Oregonians a year and costing us well over \$5 billion annually in medical costs and lost productivity.

From my personal experience, I watched vaping rise in popularity during my years in high school, I was surrounded by a friend group where everyone vaped. I can't think of a person who didn't at some level partake because the reality is the products were easy and accessible to get. The mango, fruit punch, and blue raspberry flavors made it desirable as well as the vape itself was designed to be stealthy enough to use even in our classrooms. As a young person peer pressure and social perception feel heightened and the reality is it is not always easy to say no to vaping in social settings full of your peers.

Therefore after seeing all of the people around me addicted to vape products marketed by Big Tobacco I feel deeply about establishing a ban on all tobacco flavors, all products, at all locations in the hopes to protect my friend's health in the long run. HB 3090 will improve the health of our youth, who have been relentlessly and ruthlessly targeted by tobacco companies for decades.

Thank you very much for considering my testimony today. And thank you for your consideration, empathy, and for your service to the people in Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Skye Larsen
Troutdale, OR