

HB 3090 Testimony Letter

March 21, 2023

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Nelson and Goodwein, and members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

I am writing in support of HB 3090, the Preventing Nicotine Addiction bill, which will protect our kids by ending the sale of all flavored tobacco products in Oregon.

I am a teacher and parent of two children. As a middle school teacher, I see students vaping every day ... on buses, in front of the school, at sporting events, in the bathrooms and in the hallways. As a parent, I am able to have productive conversations around avoiding the use of nicotine but frightened by the exposure my children have through advertising, shops in their hometown and their surroundings. Clearly, the prohibition of retail sales of flavored tobacco to young people under age 21 is not working well.

Flavored tobacco products like mint and mango have lured youth into thinking that vaping is not harmful. Nicotine is highly addictive. And the younger one begins using it the more likely they are to become addicted. Big Tobacco knows this because when youth got smart about cigarettes, it came up with flavored tobacco.

Human brains do not fully develop until around the mid-20s. Adolescent brains are still developing, and drugs like nicotine can hijack normal brain development, impacting so many important skills and abilities.

I deeply urge you to pass HB3090 to protect Oregon's youth. Passage will support healthy teen brain development and give youth bright futures not clouded with addiction. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Maureen Palaoro  
19462 Wild Bill Court  
Oregon City, Oregon 97045