

Submitter: Talan Gordon
On Behalf Of: West Linn High School
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure: HB3090

Testimony of Talan Gordon and Noah Kingsbury of West Linn High School
Before the House of Representatives Committee On Behavioral Health and Health
Care
March 21, 2023

Dear Oregon Representatives

My name is Talan Gordon, and my name is Noah Kingsbury. We are both seniors at West Linn high school and we are here to urge you to vote yes on House Bill 3090.

A couple days ago I went into a store in the Clackamas Town Center mall. This store has all kinds of things, mainly items like toys, posters and other random things from popular shows and media as well as lots of other random things. But they also had a glass case full of flavored vapes. They had flavors ranging from Skittles to strawberry ice cream. This advertising of vapes flavored like foods and candies clearly has a target audience. The case actually only caught my eye because every single package inside was so bright and colorful it was hard to ignore it. I felt like I was looking in a candy aisle at a grocery store.

I spoke to a few coworkers, acquaintances and friends of mine who I know vape. I asked an acquaintance of mine who is in high school and I know vapes if she preferred flavored vapes or regular ones. She replied by pulling out a mango flavored vape and saying, "What do you think." I interviewed a few of my friends who I know vape and who also are in high school. I asked the same question I had previously asked, and the responses were similar. One girl said, "Flavored vapes over regular vape, otherwise it tastes nasty. I wouldn't buy one if it didn't taste like anything." Another girl said, "Sweeter flavors seem more appealing. Who wants a metal or tobacco or mint flavor when you can have something like bubble gum." Remember, these are all high school students under the age of 18.

We know you'll hear plenty of facts and data from other speakers, like that 68-85% of people under 18 who vape use flavored vapes. We as high school students are here to tell you the stories of what is really going on with our youth, in our cities, in our towns, and in our schools.

We ask you to please vote yes on House Bill 3090.

And thank you so much for your time and service to this great state.