

Submitter: Alex Giorgi
On Behalf Of: American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure: HB3090

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson and Goodwin, and members of the committee,

My name is Alex Giorgi and I am a volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. We urge your support of HB 3090 to end the sale of menthol cigarettes and all other flavored products in Oregon. All products, all flavors, all locations, no exceptions.

Prevention is the greatest tool we have in public health. Tobacco-related illness remains the number one cause of preventable death in Oregon. Over 8,000 Oregonians will die of smoking-related illness this year. According to the CDC and the Oregon Health Authority, 95% of adults who smoke first started before the age of 21, but fewer than 25% of these same adults use any form of flavored product, while 85% of youth who smoke started with a flavored product, and 80% exclusively use flavored products.

By removing these flavored tobacco products, fewer children will be tempted to try them for the first time, avoiding a lifetime of addiction, illness, and death.

I am a stage 3 cancer survivor and I would not wish this illness on anyone. Many of us often live our lives thinking that cancer happens to other people, not to us. As a young adult, I can personally say that I didn't think I could get cancer this young. We do not have the best awareness of just how awful cancer can be until we ourselves or someone close to us gets it. Children can especially be unaware of this. I know that children are easily influenced and I do not support creating harmful products that are specifically appealing to them. However, I do support improving tobacco control in Oregon because we have an opportunity to protect children from addiction and fatal health conditions.

Please vote yes on HB 3090 and end the sale of all flavored tobacco products with no exemptions in Oregon. Your leadership will save lives.

Thank you,
Alex Giorgi