

Flavors Hook Oregon Kids HB 3090 Testimony Letter

3/22/2023

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

My name is Isabel Devera, and I am writing to support 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.

I am part of the Community Health Team for Umatilla County Public Health.

I support this bill because flavored tobacco is specifically used to target young children such as my niece and nephew. Vaping and smoking at a young age impact children with short-term and long-term effects. This includes anxiety, depression, addiction, and respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. It is difficult to protect my community from these health effects without the support of the state of Oregon.

Our kids are being targeted by Big Tobacco. Our kids are using flavored tobacco. While product names like Cotton Candy and Tutti Fruitti sound harmless, they are very dangerous. Consider the facts

- More than 3 million middle and high school students use tobacco and e-cigarettes.
- 85% of youth e-cigarette users use flavored products.
- Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Oregon, killing over 8,000 Oregonians a year.

Nicotine is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development. Taking action now will help protect our kids, prevent severe health impacts, and avoid a lifetime of addiction.

Why is this bill necessary when retailers are prohibited from selling flavored tobacco to people under the age of 21? Because it's not working.

- The Oregon Health Authority recently reported that 25% of Oregon businesses sold tobacco to underage buyers.
- In Umatilla County, 30% of businesses sold tobacco to underage buyers.

Passage of HB 3090, the Preventing Nicotine Addiction Act, will go a long way to protect youth across Oregon from falling into the trap of nicotine addiction and tobacco and e-cigarette use, as well as the host of serious health consequences associated with their use.

Sincerely,
Isabel Devera
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