

March 22, 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 youth and our communities by ending the sale of all flavored tobacco products.

Tobacco use is personal for me. I have a 12-year-old daughter, and she's a great kid. But even the best kids make poor choices and if she were to have easy access to flavored tobacco products in a peer setting I'm not certain that she wouldn't try something once that could turn into a lifelong habit that could ultimately cut her life short. I'm doing what I can to keep tobacco away from my kid, and working together we can help keep all our kids from flavored tobacco products.

Youth are being attracted to tobacco use through flavored products. While product names like Cotton Candy and Tutti Fruitti sound harmless, they are very dangerous. The use of electronic cigarettes is an epidemic in our state, and in our nation.

- 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. Action is needed now to protect youth, protect health, and avoid a lifetime of addiction.

I ask for your support for HB 3090. This legislation is a good step to protect youth across Oregon from nicotine addiction, tobacco and e-cigarette use.

Thank you for your service and for your consideration,

Bev Stewart
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