

3/22/2023

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 kids and our communities by ending the sale of all flavored tobacco products in Oregon.

I'm a young adult with many friends and family members who use flavored tobacco products. What once started as a curiosity to try popular, "harmless" flavored tobacco has resulted in many of my loved ones becoming addicted to nicotine. I've seen firsthand how the tobacco industry lures individuals in with sweet flavors, intriguing new products, and targeted advertising to make a profit at the expense of the community's health. However, the very people the tobacco industry sees as mere customers are our friends, family members, coworkers, and fellow Oregonians. It's time to stand up to Big Tobacco and prevent a new generation of nicotine-addicted individuals.

I support this bill because I believe everyone deserves to lead a healthy, fulfilling life free of nicotine addiction. Flavored tobacco products increase youth initiation and lead to lifelong tobacco use, create health inequities, and normalize the false claim that vaping is harmless.

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:

- 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 serious health impacts and avoid a lifetime of addiction.

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

- The Oregon Health Authority recently reported that 25% of Oregon 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,
Kamryn Brown
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