

Submitter: Katie Amos

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3090

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

I am a resident of Oregon and a volunteer with Parents Against Vaping e-cigarettes, and a high school counselor writing in support of HB 3090, the Preventing Nicotine Addiction bill, which will protect our kids, our families, and our communities by ending the sale of all flavored tobacco products in Oregon.

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

1. More than 3 million middle and high school students use e-cigarettes and other tobacco products.
2. Over 85% of high school students and over 80% of middle school students who use e-cigarettes, use flavored products.
3. Kids who use flavored e-cigarettes are 5x more likely to transition to combustible cigarettes.
4. Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Oregon, killing over 8,000 Oregonians every year.

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

It's impossible for K-12 teachers and staff to compete with the marketing ads by big tobacco. We are trying desperately to help kids understand the risk but we need your help.

The Oregon Health Authority recently reported that 25% of Oregon businesses sold tobacco to underage buyers. We must prevent the availability of these flavored nicotine products that so easily fall into the hands of underage kids. Less access to flavored tobacco = less youth nicotine addiction.

I urge you to vote YES on HB 3090. The Preventing Nicotine Addiction Act will go a long way to help protect youth across Oregon from falling into tobacco and e-

cigarette use, nicotine addiction, and the host of serious health consequences associated with the use of these products.

Thank you.