

Submitter: Ryan Hassan MD MPH

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3090

I am a pediatrician practicing in Happy Valley, and I support prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco. Tobacco is the leading cause of disease, disability, and death in the US. It causes cancer, heart disease, stroke, lung disease, and type 2 diabetes. Nearly half a million Americans die each year from tobacco exposure, and 41,000 of those deaths are from secondhand smoke, which is a primary risk factor for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Tobacco sales also perpetuate health disparities by race and income. Indian Americans and people on Medicaid have significantly higher rates of tobacco use than other racial and ethnic groups and those with private insurance. And for those who care more about money than human wellness, it's worth noting the tobacco industry is heavily subsidized by public funds, since all of their profits come at the cost of \$600 billion a year in healthcare spending and lost productivity from illness and premature death. Flavoring tobacco only leads to a more addictive and easily marketable carcinogen that is more appealing to children in a country where 1,600 children try their first cigarette each day. This bill will save money, reduce illness, prevent deaths, and protect our children. I urge you to vote yes on HB 3090.

Ryan Hassan MD MPH