

Submitter: Karla Signs

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 committee,

My name is Karla Signs and I'm a former smoker who started when I was twelve (12!!!) years old. Some older kids on the school bus had a pack of cute, colorful flavored cigarettes and of course I wanted to be cool like them! I was up to 2 packs a day by the time I graduated high school, but successfully quit in my early 20s after a decade of tobacco use.

I am now a mom, and I want to prevent my son from ever being tempted into the same bad habit. According to the CDC and the Oregon Health Authority, 95% of adults who smoke first started before the age of 21 and - like me - 85% of youth who smoke started with a flavored tobacco product.

These products are a thinly veiled effort by Big Tobacco to bring new customers into their pipeline. Removing flavored tobacco products will ensure fewer children will be tempted to try them for the first time. I know I don't have to tell you about the long-term health impacts of tobacco use.

When you vote tonight, please do so with the children in our community in mind.

Vote yes on HB 3090. Your leadership will save lives.

Thank you,
Karla Signs
Portland, OR