

**Flavors Hook Oregon Kids (remove)**  
**Sample: HB 3090 Testimony Letter (remove)**

**3/21/23**

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 am **a parent**.

I support this bill because as a father of two youth, I know that vaping is a source of stress and pressure on my kids to conform. My youth come home nearly everyday worrying about not fitting in due to them not participating in Vaping. The indirect impacts of the substance harms youth mental and socially than it does physically.

I don't want my kids to feel that participating in unhealthy practices, like vaping, are the only way that they can socialize or feel belonging. Being a youth is tough enough in today's divided politically world. My youth are important, their friends are important. They work hard for the little money they have and the thought of wasting it on Vaping seems disheartening to me.

Also, as a parent I invite you as Politicians to consider the following facts

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

- 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. 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,  
T. Higgins,

Tigard Oregon.