

Submitter: ERIKA PALAN

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3090

his is my written testimony to oppose House Bill 3090. I do not believe banning flavored tobacco is the correct thing to do, tobacco is already a product that cannot be sold to anyone under the age of 21. Therefore, this not only takes away adults' choices, but it also would cause significant tax implications. Flavored tobacco such as menthol and flavored chew is a big part of the overall sale of tobacco, if this is taken away, the taxes from the sales of these products would also be taken away.

This law would not stop underage tobacco use, since kids should not be using tobacco products anyways, that is why the law is already for adult use only over the age of 21. I fear, banning these products would not stop the use of them, it would only cause illegal purchasing, which would increase criminal behavior.

Banning flavored cigarettes, flavored chew, flavored cigars for adults that should be able to make their own decisions on what they purchase, would also hurt small businesses and our communities. Some small businesses rely on the sales of all tobacco and if you ban the majority of what can be sold, this would most likely bankrupt or close a lot of small businesses. For a lot of small business owners, this is their only form of income that they depend on to support their families and their employees that also depend on them to keep their businesses open and running to also support their families as well. If you take away a big part of their sales by banning flavored tobacco, this can be a ripple effect that can lead to higher unemployment rates, homelessness and poverty.

Even though tobacco is already a highly regulated product, there can always be improvement, maybe another way to insure stores are not selling to minors, we can start with identification cards and drivers licenses. Make it easier for ID cards and drivers license to be identified when they are minors, make them a different color so anyone can spot it right away.

We as residents of the State of Oregon believe in our officials to make the right choices for their people, so I urge the State of Oregon to instead of banning these flavored tobacco, do some changes in the rules so we can protect our Youth and save families that could get effected if they loose there jobs or if they Employer's have to close down their business.

Thank you,
Erika Palan