

Submitter: Nick James

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB702

As someone who works at a smoke shop that sells nicotine products, I have seen firsthand the positive impact these products can have for adult smokers who choose them responsibly. The only reason why I have been able to quit smoking cigarettes is because I started vaping. While I understand the intent of SB 702 to reduce health risks, this bill would severely impact our business and limit the choices of our customers. By banning flavored tobacco and nicotine products, it disregards the personal freedom of adults who use these products as part of their lifestyle. Furthermore, such a ban would likely push customers to the unregulated black market, where safety standards are not enforced, potentially causing more harm. Small businesses like ours, which rely on the sale of these products, would face significant financial hardship. Rather than an outright ban, we should focus on better education, stronger regulations, and support for those who wish to quit. This way, we can address public health concerns without punishing responsible consumers and local businesses.