

Hello Senators,

I'm writing as a concerned citizen to share my support for S.18 the bill to ban flavored tobacco in Vermont.

This issue is important to me as a both a mother of teens and a professional working in the field of public health. I am seeing the significant consequences that a predatory tobacco industry has caused with these flavored products. My son is a Junior at Essex High School and he had told me that he is seeing more and more of his friends starting to use vape products - getting sucked in by how accessible and promoted they are in their everyday lives. He has said this year it has been harder and harder to make healthy choices when he sees it all around him.

I've lived in Essex Junction for 20 years now and it was depressing to see the shift when flavored vape products really hit the market and the local convenience stores around our schools became plastered with advertising for Juul, Snus, and other flavored products. We need push back against the companies responsible for heavily marketing these addictive products and make drastic changes to improve the lives of the next generation so we don't reverse all the progress we made over the last 50+ years to reduce smoking rates.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you want to talk further about this issue.
Thank you for all that you do!

Mariah Flynn - Essex Junction resident