

-----Original Message-----

From: Ashlee Pecor <ashleemanon@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 3:46 PM

To: Faith Brown <FBrown@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: [External] Bill S.288

[External]

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> Dear Representative,

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> My Name is Ashley and I am writing to you in regards to Bill S.288. I am asking you to PLEASE OPPOSE banning Flavored E-liquid entirely in Vermont. As a consumer and former smoker of 13 years, I have been able to quit the harmful and potentially deadly habit with the help of flavored E-Liquid. As I had tried many other methods in the past with little to no success, most methods left me with additional issues to my physical and mental health. With the help of Flavors such as "Peach, Pear, Gummy" "Watermelon Bubblegum" and "Blueberry Jam Toast" , among many others, which I purchased in Adult only shops where kids are not allowed, I quit smoking in 2 months, and have been Smoke Free for 3 years. Vaping has changed my life in a plethora of positive ways, and without the flavors, I know I would still be smoking today. I am extremely healthy, and my Doctor supports my Vaping. My Mother (50), Grandmother (80), and Boyfriend (32) have all been successful in Quitting Smoking with the help of Flavored E-Liquids as well.

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> I have lived in Vermont my entire 33 year life. I work Full Time and am a registered Voter. If this Bill passes and I no longer have access to these harm reducing/potentially life saving products, I will have to move out of state, and/or will be forced to illegally obtain the products that help me stay combustible tobacco free. Other consumers such as myself, many whom I know personally, and are all my age or older (some as old as 80) will be left with 2 options, vape tobacco flavors, which do not allow a smoker to dissociate from the taste and smell of a cigarette, which is CRUCIAL in the quitting process. Or return to Smoking Cigarettes, which kill 480,000 people per year, while Flavored Nicotine E-liquid has caused ZERO deaths worldwide.

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> I believe there are a number of other regulations that could be put in place to reduce access to our youth other than just full on prohibition. History shows that prohibition is not successful, and opens up a dangerous black market. These products have been on the market for 10+ Years with no issues and have gotten us to record low Cancer Rates.

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> As we know from the Center for Disease Control, the black market is where many people, most of which were under age and already prohibited from purchasing legally, obtained Vitamin E Acetate contaminated THC Cartridges that caused ALL of the EVALI cases in the US. Taking away the legal market for products that are intended to reduce harm may ultimately cause even more harm to Public Health. I vape because it is less harmful than smoking, and this Bill would make me a criminal for wanting to be a healthier human being. Does that seem right?

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> The Royal College of Physician's, England, who were the first to warn us of the Negative effects of Combustible Tobacco in relation to cancer of the lungs and other diseases in 1962, have

released a new Report on E-Cigarettes. Their findings show that Vaping Nicotine E-Liquid is at least 95% Less Harmful than Smoking Cigarettes. Vaping is encouraged in the UK for harm reduction where they even have vape shops in their Hospitals to help encourage smokers to switch. They implement many regulations to ensure less access to youth, and do not report any issues on the matter.

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> A Recent study lead by researchers at NYU School of Global Public Health, published in the journal "Nicotine & Tobacco Research" finds that over 80 percent of youth do not use any tobacco, and over 86 percent do not vape. It also found that among the minority who do vape, most are not regular users. In addition, the study reveals that most youth who are vaping are also current or former smokers. Only a small proportion of "tobacco naïve youth" reported vaping.

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> In Vermont specifically, according to the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, only 10% of youth reported their "reason for use" of E-Cigarettes to be because of "Flavors". 51% Reported "Some other reason" and 80% Reported using Juul. The Trump Administration has already Banned Flavors in Closed Pod Systems, and Online Sales in Vermont are already Banned, Leaving youth with little opportunity to access the types of E-Liquids that are used by Adults to quit smoking.

Furthermore, at a very crucial time for the State and Country's Economy this bill would be devastating to Vermont's overall Income. It would leave THOUSANDS more people out of work, And would force THOUSANDS more small businesses to close their doors!

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> Please leave sales of Open System Flavored E-Liquids available in Adult only Shops for Adults so we may continue to allow smokers the option of harm reduction. I guarantee if we do this, next years Risk Survey will show a decline in youth vaping and an even larger decline overall in Cigarette Use. In other words a much healthier Vermont!

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> Thank You for your time and consideration on this very important matter.

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> Sincerely,

> Ashley

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> Sent from my iPhone