

First and foremost, I would like to thank you for this opportunity show my support of SB326 and to share my family's reality as it relates to vaping. My name is....

As a healthcare professional I was open and honest about educating my children regarding the dangers of vaping as they entered Middle School. We had discussions about both the risk and the lure of flavorings. Sadly, our efforts as parents did not prevent one of our children from being intrigued by the infamous bubble gum scented vaping cartridges. While we did not know it at the time, his vaping "journey" had begun at the early age of 10 years old.

His continued vaping since that time has been dictated by which flavorings he likes and which he avoids. He will not vape any product which does not have flavorings which he enjoys. I cannot get the vision of my 10-year-old child vaping out of my mind. It is this image which compelled me to volunteer with parents against e-cigarettes in order to advocate for the children of our State.

According to the Journal of American Medical Association, published online October 26, 2015 81% of youth who have ever used tobacco products initiated with a flavored product.

At least 2/3 of youth tobacco users report using tobacco products because "they come in flavors I like" again according to The Journal of American Medical Association 2015.

According to Wang, TW, et al 2020 research article titled "E-cigarette Use Among Middle and High School Students-United States 2020" - among High School students who use any type of flavored e-cigarette - 73% use fruit, 55.8% mint, 37% menthol and 36% candy flavored.

While the research is compelling, I would implore that common sense also prevails. When an addictive chemical is altered by adding flavorings which mimic children's products such as cereal, candy or gum a bad end is inevitable. Young children will continue to be lured into tobacco use. It is therefore up to us, as adults in our society, to step up and protect our children by banning flavorings in all e-cigarette forms.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. Please vote to approve SB326.

Kim Estes