

January 31, 2021

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee of Connecticut General Assembly

My name is Tajae Soares, and I am from Hartford. I am a high school student and a member of Advocacy to Legacy, Inc. whose mission is to educate individuals, families and communities how to advocate for themselves. I support bill S.B. No. 326 (RAISED) AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF FLAVORED CIGARETTES, TOBACCO PRODUCTS, ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND VAPOR PRODUCTS.

I'm in favor of banning the sale of flavored tobacco products and e-cigarettes because they are targeting young smokers by making it more appealing to them. Most of the young smokers first started with a flavored product and now it's becoming more difficult to quit. This now turns into a public health concern. Meanwhile the use of e-cigs continue to rise from 20.8% in 2018 to 30% in 2020 using "kid -friendly" flavors. By using popular candy flavor brands and colorful packaging the truth is it turns kids into long term nicotine addicts and it becomes harder to quit and causes cancer, heart disease, emphysema, lung damage and this is critical to prevent the next generation from living with addiction.

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