

Dear Representative,

My name is Sean Carolan and i live in the beautiful town of Abilene Kansas. I'm a father to 4 wonderful children and husband to my wife Megan of 11 years. I am writing you today in regards to H.B. 2563 section 12(w). Flavored nicotine vape liquid was the only thing that worked for me to be able to stop smoking.I had tried nicotine gum, lozenges, and even Chantix which i had to stop because of serious side effects. I had even tried tobacco flavored vape liquid at the very beginning but indeed up back smoking. I was finally able to stop smoking May of 2017 with the help of strawberry-kiwi flavored vape liquid. Since that date i have experienced a huge increase in my health. I had smoked for roughly 12 years in which time it had negatively impacted my life.the constant coughing, being out of breath anytime i would try and play with my kids,i would get bronchitis at least twice a year. Since switching to vaping i haven't had even one respiratory infection. I missed zero days of work this year from illness and to be completely honest February 13 will be the first day i took a day off in over a year.Banning Flavors will have a huge negative impact on public health, my health, and thousands of other Kansans.My wife just lost her father from cancer due to tobacco use and i have lost two aunts to tobacco use. One from lung cancer and the second this last year from heart problems.I know beyond a doubt that flavors are what allowed me to stop smoking and i am only one of thousands who have similar stories.I understand that H.B. 2563 section 12(w) is well intended but i fear it endangers more lives than it protects. It will for sure cause people to go back to smoking and create an unregulated dangerous black market like for example what we seen this summer with the marijuana carts that were tainted with vitamin E acetate. A flavor ban will not address the causes for youth vaping such as the high nicotine levels found in disposable products or Juuls and theirs small size allowing them to be concealed easily. Also according to the Kansas department of health's website only 10.7% of the teens who vape or have tried a vape claim it was cause of flavors, so once again a flavor ban does little to address youth usage but has a huge impact on the 17.4% of Kansans that may want to stop smoking, not to mention the tax revenue the state will lose which i believe is above 12 million. Flavors are necessary for adults to stop something as addictive and deadly as smoking tobacco.

Sincerely,
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