

My name is Wally Gibson, I am owner/operator of both One Stop Vape Shop and Always There Home Care located in Independence, KS. I am urging this committee and the representatives at large to remove any and all language regarding the banning the any legal, FDA registered e-liquid FLAVORS as hastily inserted into HR 2563. Here is why:

1. Most importantly- the health of the very people that you were elected to represent. It is vitally important to the success of those customers that have used nicotine, water soluble FLAVORED e-liquids to QUIT smoking cigarettes. Between our stores Tobacco and Menthol flavors only account for 3.6% of our overall sales. Consumers are much more likely to be successful in being able to transition off of cigarettes when they have "comfort flavors" that they enjoy in their daily life to use to ween themselves off of the harmful toxins found in cigarettes, making nicotine based vaping the most successful tobacco harm reduction product to date!
2. No doubt that all present have shared in the health scares of the newly coined EVALI sickness and deaths that have been simply lumped into "vaping". The CDC has now publicly announced repeatedly that they have linked ALL such illness and death to street level drug dealers selling illicit THC cartridges that contain very little THC and the balance being filled with Vitamin E acetate, which is the same color and consistency of the THC. The resulting EVALI outbreak is due to the Vitamin E acetate being OIL BASED. You can NOT, should NOT EVER vape any substance that is not water soluble! It is crucial to understand that the term "vaping", like "smoking" is the verb, not a catch all. You can "smoke" cigarettes, which kill on average 1315 people a day; you can also "smoke" weed, meth and other illicit drugs. You can "vape" legal e-liquids and unfortunately you can vape illicit drugs that said no one should lump the illicit act into that of legal, FDA registered e-liquids.
3. Kansas Fiscal Health. The State of Kansas via KDOR collects a .05 cent a milliliter Consumable Material Tax on the contents of legally available e-liquids, including zero nicotine products. Basic math indicates that if 90+% of the e-liquids sold in Kansas are FLAVORED non-tobacco or menthol products that would have a negative fiscal impact to the State. I would like to point out that there are many months that my company pays more into KDOR in Consumable Materials (e-liquid) tax than actual sales tax on hardware, etc.

For over 20 years I have provided medical equipment, including Oxygen to my patients. I have provided equipment and services to many Hospice companies as well. I have seen the direct results of the damage smoking does and the cost of heart and respiratory illness to the Medicaid programs. I successfully got 17 oxygen patients who still smoked while using the machines off of cigarettes for good using flavors that they could use to break the cigarette addiction because the flavors were enjoyable enough and did not cause adverse effects like the gums, patch and prescription nicotine items did. If it hasn't already been done I would implore someone on this committee or in the House to do a cost benefit or impact study to evaluate the net savings to the KS Medical Assistance Program. I think you would be pleasantly surprised that the number of Kansan's that have successfully stopped smoking by vaping, which is proven at least 95% less harmful has significantly reduced the drain on smoking related illness paid for by the State.

Please help the well being of those you serve by removing the flavor ban language from this bill. I will make myself available to any of you if you have questions or would like consumer data or testimony.

Thank you for your time, Wally Gibson % One Stop VAPE Shops/Always There Home Care, LLC