

John Jones

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Hello,

My name is John Jones and I am the owner of Parkville Vape House. Parkville Vape House is a family owned vape shop located in Parkville, Maryland. This business was started to bring the community together and educate those on the vaping community. This shop has turned into more than a retail store, the employees and customers have become a family.

The tax and flavor ban being imposed will affect not only me, but my family and employees as well. I am a single dad to 3 amazing boys who depends on me for their education, food, housing, and much more. More than me, I have 2 employees that have families to provide for.

I began smoking cigarettes at the age of 16 years old. I have since, turned to vaping as a cheaper and healthier alternative, and I have personally been vaping for about 6 years. When I began the vaping journey, Parkville Vape House was started not long after. This shop became my mission to educate others and help them live longer, fuller lives.

The tobacco age was raised on October 1, 2019 to 21. On December 20, 2019 President Trump signed Federal tobacco guidelines that no longer allowed military exemptions. I purchased an ID scanner for my employees to use. We have always had the rule that if you do not have an ID you cannot buy products regardless if you're 26 or 62. However, since the beginning of T21, we have been more thorough. My Point of Sale system does not allow my employees to continue a purchase without scanning an ID. However, there are some stores such as Walgreens, 7/11, Royal Farms, Walmart, and many more than are not as strict or educated on the vaping laws. Convenience stores are far more likely to sell minor's products like Juul, Puff Bar, Vuse, and many more.

If a flavor ban or 86% sales tax is enacted, it will put my shop out of business. I will have to let go employees that rely on this shop for money to care for their families. Those adults that have turned to vaping as a better alternative, will subsequently go back to cigarettes. Minors will have an easier access to tobacco products. Vaping products should be restricted to regulated vape shops where employees are thorough with checking ID's and are educated about the products being sold.

Currently, Maryland Vaping Alliance is proposing if the flavor ban must be done, to exempt regulate vape shops from this ban. Regulated vape shops have employees that are educated on the subject and can truly ensure the safety of the product. They scan ID's so no sales to minors will happen.

In conclusion, pushing regulated vape businesses out will not end the vaping community, it will simply make it unsafe like the THC cartridges being bought on the streets that contain vitamin E acetate.