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### OPPOSITION to SB233

I am writing to express my opposition to SB233 of prohibition of flavors for Open Vapor Systems.

The reason I am opposed to the bill is because it is targeted to class small businesses in Maryland. As an owner of a vapor store, in the White Marsh area, I can honestly say that it we cause me to lock my doors, and eliminate an outlet to the hundreds of adults that we were able to help by offering an alternative solution from smoking combustible tobacco cigarettes. I have great pride in helping people to improve their lives.

We are just a local brick and mortar store. I am not part of Big Tobacco or JUUL. Stores like mine cannot survive by selling Tobacco and Menthol Flavors. Over 95% of adults who quiet combustible cigarettes, or are in the mist of trying, accomplish this goal by using flavors other then tobacco/ cigarette flavors.

Example: I want to lose weight and I must eliminate soda from my diet for my health concerns. So, all the dietary food and supplements have soda flavor to them. Some people believe this will curve the appetite for sodas. At first it may for a little while, but it is easy to cheat or go back because there is no difference to the pallet. My point to this is to quit drinking soda, one must drink water for a time period sustaining for soda so that when that person does drink a soda it becomes unsatisfying because the soda is now extremely sweet which is now enjoyable. This is the same philosophy to totally get off combustible cigarettes to truly kick that habit.

As I watch people go through the process of quitting Combustible and quitting Vaping, I notice how nicotine in vaping does not have such a mental old on individuals then cigarettes. People feel so much more comfortable lowering the Nicotine Levels on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis until they try to go from 1mg to 0mg (but they typically fight through the struggle).

Seeing people improve their lives and the pride they have when they tell their stories is incredibly rewarding to me. I am proud to operate a store that truly cares and (I whole heartily believe) believe we have providing a better meaning for people to improve their lives.

Let's take a second to see what this ban would create:

1. Local businesses would close causing an inrush of people loses jobs and inflating the local unemployment rate.
2. Most people will go back to cigarettes increasing public health concerns.
3. Black Market would be the sole benefactor. Also raising public health concerns.

Solutions:

1. Totally eliminate online retail. This is the easiest means for kids to get products.
2. Only allow Vape products to be sold in specialty store that ***ONLY SPECIALIZE*** in Vaping.
3. These stores should be licensed and meet requirements. (aka Liquor Stores)