

Hello, my name is Bidur Ghimire, I am the owner of five stores in Maryland and employ approximately 25 individuals from our local communities. Upon learning about the proposed SB 1056 Restricting E-Vapor Sales to Vape Shops, I was both shocked and disappointed. I firmly believe that adults aged 21 and above should have the freedom to purchase products of their choice from any convenience store. Therefore, I kindly request that you oppose SB 1056.

To ensure compliance with age restrictions, I have invested significant time and resources in training all my employees on the importance of age verification. Additionally, I have implemented POS scanning systems that accurately scan IDs. We have prominently displayed signs at all POS stations and entrance doors, clearly stating that we do not sell tobacco products to individuals under the age of 21.

As a proud Marylander and American, my business contributes to both the state and federal economy. I am a licensed business owner who diligently pays taxes and provides services to thousands of individuals who call America their home. Banning these products would have a detrimental impact on my revenue, potentially resulting in a loss of \$150,000. This loss could lead to layoffs of several employees, a decrease in the number of individuals I serve, and ultimately force the closure of my small businesses. The negative consequences would not only affect me but also the state of Maryland and the overall federal economy. We simply cannot afford to let this happen.

I urge you to stand with small business owners and oppose SB 1056. Many of us operate as single-store operators, often as small businesses or franchises run by families seeking to establish community-oriented enterprises. This bill would unjustly prohibit us from selling a single adult consumer product, while transferring those sales to other businesses without any valid reason.