

I am Manish, the proud owner of Your Store in Berlin. I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB1056. Owning my own business has been a lifelong dream, and I took the leap 14 years ago by leaving Sunoco to start my own venture. My customers mean everything to me, and I am deeply concerned about the potential harm this proposed bill could inflict on my small business.

In these challenging times, it is crucial to support local businesses like mine. Restricting E-Vapor sales solely to vape shops will not only negatively impact my store but also drive customers to shop elsewhere. Convenience stores like mine rely on the sales of vapor products, as well as the additional items that adult vapor customers purchase, such as gas, food, and various other products.

It is worth noting that no other state has implemented such a policy, highlighting the shortsightedness of this proposal. By enacting this restriction, the state risks losing revenue, harming small businesses, and unfairly discriminating against certain neighborhoods.

I take great pride in the responsible operation of my store, and I have always prioritized strict ID checks for age-restricted products. This policy fails to acknowledge the significant progress made by the retailer community in preventing youth access to tobacco and other restricted items. Convenience stores and gas stations have been at the forefront of these efforts, and it is disheartening to see their contributions overlooked.

I urge you to reconsider SB1056 and its potential consequences. Instead, let us work together to find alternative solutions that support small businesses, promote responsible sales practices, and ensure the well-being of our communities. Thank you for your attention to this matter.