

Melissa Hendrix
114 Tennessee Rd
Stevensville, MD 21666

Thank you, Chair, and committee members. I am here today to oppose bill HB 1197, because this bill will completely shut down my vape shop. The products left on the shelf would be all big tobacco that are high nicotine products. My customers would have the option of high nicotine, cigarettes, black market, or going to the closest state to find the products they use.

The products that we have today implement safety features to keep consumers safer and this bill brings us back to 2016 where the current safety features were not thought of. Our industry is constantly changing and what was around in 2016 is no longer available to purchase today.

Passing this bill will hurt many adult smokers and their families! This will not only shut my business down, but it will hurt my customers and limit the choices. I know that not only would this affect my business, but it will hurt the state of Maryland and I know right now the state is hurting for money. This would shut down many businesses here, not just mine, because we cannot survive off the limited number of products that the FDA has approved.

I have been in business since 2014 and I have done my part as a business owner to make sure my products are not sold to minors. I have children and I don't want them to have the opportunity to have the products until their age but if you look at the FDA website compliance checks you will see that most of the businesses selling to minors are places where children are allowed to enter. If you pass this bill, you keep the high nicotine products on the market with no option of dropping down on the nicotine. Kids do not care about what flavor it is they only care about the effects it has which is the high nicotine that would be left sold in under 21 establishments. Make smart choices and say no to this bill.

