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Thank you, committee members, for allowing me to speak today. I am here in support of bill SB1056 as this would help keep vapes out of the hands of teens. This bill has a lot of potential to help reduce the number of teens using vape products because it places all the vapes in businesses that only allow 21 and over adults. We are dedicated to helping keep vapes out of the hands of teens. If you look at the compliance checks from the FDA the bad actors are the convenience stores or stores that allow anyone under the age of 21 to enter.

Vapes belong in vape shops where the employees understand the product and are knowledgeable about what they sell. We have the education to help customers purchase the right product for themselves along with the knowledge and know how to use the product. When customers walk into a convenience store to purchase a vape product, they will not get the education like they do when they walk into a vape shop.

Maryland has the second lowest smoking rate in the United States and small business vape shops have really helped to ensure that remains. We believe that this legislation will protect small business vape shops and make Maryland healthier. My family was full of smokers and now most of them do not smoke or vape anymore to me that is making Maryland healthier with one person at a time.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.