



The Honorable Pam Beidle
Senate Finance Committee, Chair
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East Wing
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

March 7, 2024

RE: SB 1056 - Cigarettes, Other Tobacco Products, and Electronic Smoking Devices - Revisions
(Tobacco Retail Modernization Act of 2024)

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Beidle,

I am writing to you as Hamdi Osman, student/ youth advocate, living in Silver Spring, Maryland to express my support for SB 1056, the Tobacco Retail Modernization Act of 2024. I support this bill because I am a student who has been impacted. Before I entered high school in 2020, knowing someone who had access or used any type of drugs was almost unheard of for me. In the eyes of my peers and I, it was seen as out of the ordinary and something that could only be done in the movies. Back then, drugs seemed far-fetched, and way out of our grasps.

Never would I have imagined that drugs would become a norm. Like clockwork, it's almost a day-to-day occurrence where I see girls huddled around each other passing around vapes. The smoke fills the back of the school bathroom and a thick vapor along with a prominent fruity scent is overly present. Sometimes, I'll spot girls during the times I leave class to use the restroom, sitting on the floor of the biggest stall, skipping class to vape.

Vaping, to me, feels like a gateway drug. I see younger classmen try vaping, get hooked, and then shortly after try marijuana which can be often laced with something stronger. The amount of overdoses and health issues that I have heard happened because kids are getting into drugs doesn't seem normal. This shouldn't be happening at all. It's scary that my school and community have been administering lessons to combat the opioid crisis because of the amount of incidents that have occurred. We are just kids, we shouldn't be given lessons on how to deal with a person overdosing. It feels like this problem where kids are getting into drugs is getting worse day by day. There needs to be a change.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB 1056, the Tobacco Retail Modernization Act of 2024.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,
Hamdi Osman
Youth Activism Project