

I am Kayla Peri from Wye River Upper School, and I support this bill to ban flavored tobacco products because it will help expose the lies that the vaping industry has been feeding us. Many companies claim that vapes are supposed to help people stop smoking; however, this is not FDA approved. Actually, the flavors make it easier to get addicted to and harder to quit. This is especially true when it comes to teens and young adults. As of 2019, 23 percent of Maryland high school students use electronic smoking devices, and 73 percent of flavored tobacco product users are young adults. E-cigarettes are an equally unhealthy replacement for cigarettes. There are actually legitimate and effective products (without flavors) that are made to help you quit, mainly nicotine gum and transdermal patches. They both have a set schedule and rules, and are supposed to be used not alone, but with psychiatric assistance. Unlike e-cigarettes, they do not create new addicts.