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Hello, my name is Melissa Hendrix, and thank you for allowing me to speak today. I smoked for about 22 years started when I was around 13 years old. I did not get in trouble for smoking cigarettes by my parents, but I did through school and the police. When I was in school, I smoked in the bathroom and got suspended on numerous occasions, but I did not get in trouble at home. Once I got pulled over and received a citation and had to pay 25\$ to go to a class that told me everything that I knew about cigarettes (cigarettes will kill you). So maybe if my parents punished me it would have been more effective, not sure, they never did.

Through the years I wanted to quit smoking because I didn't like the way I felt always had headaches, felt tired, out of breath running upstairs, and the way I smelled. Plus, I had children 2 of them and they both asked if I would quit smoking. So, I gave it try using a few different methods: Chantix, Wellbutrin, and nicotine patches. Those methods were not affective for me it wasn't until I stepped into my first vape shop. It was cool I could pick out whatever flavor I wanted, and they would make it up for me. I started out on 24mg/2.4% nicotine and slowly dropped down on my nicotine. Currently I use barely any nicotine in my vape and I can adjust as needed. As I dropped down on my nicotine, I had to change my flavor because it did have a different taste. Flavors are what helped me to stay away from cigarettes.

Since I have started vaping flavored nicotine, I have noticed a difference in my health I can run upstairs without running out of breath, I have more energy, I don't stink, I don't get headaches often, and I also have a better since of taste and smell. Trying to quit smoking was one of the most challenging things I have had to do in my life. Vaping has helped in many ways and I hope that you will consider keeping flavored nicotine in vape shops only. When the vaping industry started people were making it everywhere it didn't matter because there were no regulations. Now we have regulations with safer products, so let's continue to make sensible laws to help more 21 and older get off the cigarettes. However, if this bill is pushed through a black market for nicotine products will happen because I will not go back to cigarettes, I worked too hard for that.