

Hi, my name is Samantha Wisniewski I'm 33 years old and I have been tobacco free for 6 years.

I started smoking cigarettes at the age of 15.

In middle school I was on the basketball team as well as the track and field team.

By high school I dropped all sports. I couldn't keep up because I was always out of breath due to smoking cigarettes.

In 2014 at my nieces 3rd birthday party I wanted to get a picture with her, and she looked at me and said "No Aunt Sam you stink".

That day I threw out my FULL pack of cigarettes that I had just purchased.

I tried to quit cold turkey, but that didn't work, so I went to my local vape shop to see if it was something that could help.

The people there asked me how much I normally smoked so they could suggest the best level of nicotine for me. They ended up suggesting a 12mg e-juice.

Because of them I found a coffee flavored juice and a strawberry menthol flavored juice that made me not even want cigarettes anymore.

I tried the tobacco flavors, but they were so much like a cigarette I knew it was not going to help me stay away from cigarettes.

I met my wife through a local vape shop and because of vaping we have both been able to quit smoking. My 56-year-old mother smoked for 30+ years and has also quit thanks to vaping. My wife loves fruity juices and my mom loves a Captain Crunch juice.

If this bill is to pass, I fear others like myself that refuse to go back to cigarettes would have no choice but to make their own juice or find someone who does. At that point, it would no longer be regulated and who knows whether or not it will actually be safe.

I do agree that kids should not have access to these products.

My opinion is that there needs to be consequences for underage individuals that are caught using or in possession of these products.

If caught, their "vape device" is simply taken with no consequences and 2 hours later, they are finding another way to get a new one.

Since that day in 2014, I have been able to decrease my level of nicotine to 3mg. I would rather smell like a bakery than an ashtray. Just as I would rather purchase my e-juice from a regulated distributor instead of having no choice but to buy it from a non-regulated source.

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you today.

Samantha Wisniewski
1034 Side Saddle Trail
Lusby, MD 20657