

MEAN STREET VAPOR, LLC

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Dear Chairman, and esteemed members of the committee,

My name is Trenton Davis. I am a 29 year old African American who is a former smoker, and current vaper, and I am writing in regards to proposed bill HB0003(SB0233) to humbly ask for an amendment, or opposition, to this bill. As a manager of a vape store for 6 years, I can tell you all about the dozens, if not hundreds, of people I've successfully helped quit cigarettes over the years. Instead, however, I'm writing this testimony from my perspective, and my journey to becoming smoke free.

It was about 10 years ago when I bought my first vape product. I had been smoking menthol cigarettes since I was 14, and knew I had to make a change as it was adversely affecting my health. The device I used was a disposable e-cig purchased from a kiosk in the mall with a pre-filled tobacco flavor. Naturally, the appeal lasted only a week as I felt that the flavor of it was close, but not quite as satisfying as a real Newport 100. After some time I figured I could try again while informing myself further on the topic of vaping, as well as learning about dedicated vape stores where a professional would advise me. As I sat in awe of the variety of choices available to me, the young professional recommended a flavor called Krunchberries, which was a cereal flavor. Originally, I rebuked the notion of the flavor, but when I tried it I found it infinitely more palatable than the mock menthol cigarette flavor I had purchased previously. Before I knew it a month flew by and to my delightful surprise - I had not smoked a single cigarette. Even now, 10 years later, I am living free of cigarettes and reaping the benefits of this lifestyle. I breathe better, I smell better, food tastes better, and I feel better. In addition, I decided to apply for a position at the very same store

where the young professional who had helped me worked, in the hopes of aiding more people the way I had been.

I got the job and, in time, became the manager of the company. I spend my entire professional life assisting people in quitting cigarettes for good, in the hopes they will feel the benefits that I have. This process, by and large, relies heavily on finding the flavor that works best for each customer, to keep them coming back and support the breaking of poor habits. Banning flavored vapor products will take away the ability of millions of Maryland adults from becoming smoke free, as I did, with the help of flavored vaping products. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Trenton Davis
District Manager
Mean Street Vapor