

February 15, 2023 SB0259

Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier I am here to testify against SB0259. My name is Matthew Milby and I am a small business owner in Carroll County. This bill would effectively ban all flavors in ENDS products and put me out of business. My business is the sole support of my family which include Myself, my wife and 3 children. I have 3 school age children ages of 13, 9 and 6 years old. My business is exclusively catered to adults using flavored ENDS products to switch from deadly cigarettes to a vapor product which has been proved by science to be at least 95% safer alternative to smoking. This research is readily available to view by the Royal College of physicians. This is the same body of physicians that told us back in 1962 that smoking of cigarettes was bad for us and caused disease and the United States did not listen then until about 10-15 years later when the first warnings were put on cigarette packs. Lets not repeat history we should be ashamed of. 480,000 people die every year from smoking cigarettes. Over in the UK vape shops are common in hospitals because they know that smoking kills!  
<https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/news/promote-e-cigarettes-widely-substitute-smoking-says-new-rcp-report>

We get a lot of information from the National Youth tobacco Survey and since 2020 when SB0259 was introduced and defeated youth use of ENDS products have dropped over 63%. This survey also concluded that a very small number of youth reported flavors and the reason they use. Most reported that they use ENDS products to help with anxiety and depression. I would rather see these kids get the help they need other than turning to the use of substance. National Youth tobacco survey can be found here. [https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/surveys/nyts/data/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/surveys/nyts/data/index.html)

If flavors are banned vape shops will be put out of business and convenience stores, tobacco stores, gas stations, and other smoke shops who sell these products will survive. Why is that important? Its important because we need to look at violations, who is selling these products to minors in the State of Maryland? If you look at the reports most of the business mentioned above are the ones selling to minors. You will be hard pressed to find a pure vape shop on that list. There are hundreds and hundreds of violations. Don t take my word for it, please look and confirm. All the violations are readily available to view.

In closing I urge you to vote unfavorably on this bill. Stop small business owners from being put out of business, especially since our sole purpose is harm reduction for adults!

Thank you  
Matthew Milby