

02/21/2025

HB 1441 – Opposed

Good afternoon,

My name is Collin Mcilvried and I'm a small business owner in Maryland. I'm a Marine Corp veteran and have operated a vape shop in my home county since 2014. Too often we sit and write these letters to you knowing that the science, and statistics, are on our side. Too often we describe the problems, and highlight the culprits in great detail, knowing loopholes exist that we aren't privy to. And too often we're reminded that we don't have the money to play with the big boys.

Bills like this are small business killers. And vape shops aren't the reason they get introduced. Smoke shops, convenience stores, and social media platforms are where minors are getting their products. They get reported repeatedly, yet we still watch them open every morning knowing they don't charge the correct tax (making them far cheaper), and selling poor quality products to minors because it's easy money. But it's hard to sit and watch it happen. Vape products should be banned from those stores, and sold by reputable retailers who didn't open because it was trendy, but because we wanted to offer safer alternatives to the smokers in our communities.

Once again, the only thing this bill does is cripple the reputable retailers who have followed the rules since day one, and help big tobacco companies profit off cheap products in tobacco stores.

Thank you,

Collin Mcilvried