

2/21/2025

HB 1441 – Opposed

Good afternoon,

My name is Matthew Milby and I am a small business owner in Maryland. I help people quit deadly cigarettes by the use of vapor products and this bill will destroy my business and put me out of business.

There is no way that a small business owner can comply with the regulations set forth. Only big corporations with lots of money (AKA Big Tobacco) will be able to do this. This will decimate the vapor market in Maryland ensuring that only Big Tobacco products of very high nicotine will be on the market. All of us who have severely decreased our dependence on nicotine down to 3mg will be forced to either go back to smoking cigarettes or be forced to use 50mg or higher nicotine. This bill will not only create a very unfair and one-sided playing field in Big Tobacco's favor. It will destroy many small businesses.

This bill comes at a time where the FDA is mired in lawsuits because of their unfair PMTA process which small business owners have fought in court and won in the circuit courts and had injunctive relief against the FDA.

Furthermore, we have a problem with big corporations and convenience stores selling tobacco products to minors. Whereas vape shops have proven to be the ones who are carding. It's easy to see who the violators are by doing a simple search on Google. You will be hard pressed to find a vape shop on that list and you will find many convenience stores, grocery outlets, smoke shops, head shops that are selling to minors at an alarming rate. When this bill destroys the vape shops in MD and only Big Tobacco products can be sold that will ensure that these products will be readily available to minors across the state.

With the enactment of HB 1441 it will also ensure a gigantic black market in Maryland. Since we have no plan to police the internet and prevent people from crossing state lines. The products that this bill will get rid of will be flowing into Maryland from either the internet or purchased by taking a small drive into a neighboring state and bringing back home here to Maryland to be resold in the black market.

I strongly oppose this bill and hope to work with this legislative body on common sense reform instead of putting laws in place that favor Big Tobacco products and put small business out of business.

Thank You,

Matthew Milby