

Jenna Anthony  
Regarding Economic Matters Committee Bill HB 1441  
February 21, 2025

My name is Jenna Anthony. I am a resident and business owner in Maryland. I am testifying about the negative impacts that HB 1441 will have on my business, employees, customers, and family if passed as currently written.

As an owner of a small vape shop who focuses solely on selling nicotine products that might help our customers quit smoking cigarettes, I am concerned that this bill favors big tobacco and is being submitted under the pretense of consumer protection. However, there is a high risk that this bill will ban lower nicotine vaping products (0mg-12mg nicotine) that are being used by my customers and many other Maryland residents to slowly decrease their nicotine intake. If only closed systems, like disposable devices (50mg or more nicotine), are left on the market, consumers will no longer be able to select their preferred nicotine level. Disposable devices are much more highly addictive due to the high amount of nicotine content compared to open system devices that allow you to choose a lower nicotine level.

This bill is also likely to lead to the closure of small businesses like mine, who focus solely on selling nicotine vaping products. Data shows that these small, focused shops have been proven to age gate their stores, unlike convenience stores who are the primary sellers of vaping products to children and teens. These small shops also create a lot of revenue for the state through the 20% vaping sales tax. The closure of these shops would have a devastating economical impact on the state. In addition, as history has taught us, banning sales of products that consumers want often causes a black market, which is likely in Maryland where you can enter several other states with a short car ride. My employees and employees of these many shops will no longer have jobs and will likely have to rely on unemployment.

This bill also lacks a clear process on how the Attorney General of Maryland, who will have sole authority, will determine what products can and cannot be sold. This will likely leave only big tobacco products on the market because they are the ones with unlimited financial funds to meet the likely requirements.

Let's keep these lower nicotine products on the market and vaping sales in the hands of stores that truly care about their customers and keeping vaping products out of the hands of children and teens.

I would like to thank the committee for taking the time to read my testimony and for your considerations of my concerns regarding HB 1441.