

02/25/2025

SB0918 – Opposed

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Richard Wisniewski. I am a co-owner of Class 5 Vapor in White Marsh, Maryland. I have owned and operated Class 5 Vapor since 2015.

This Bill and similar Bills are small business killers. Reputable vape stores aren't the reason these Bills get introduced. Gas stations, convenience stores, smoke shops, and social media platforms are where minors are obtaining their products. Most of the aforementioned businesses go unmonitored and unreported. Those that do get reported are not punished and continue with business as usual, providing poor quality products, selling to minors and not collecting the appropriate taxes. Therefore, the State of Maryland is also losing revenue. Vape products should be banned from these types of stores and only sold by reputable retailers who want to offer a safer alternative to adult smokers.

The Attorney General should not have sole authority to determine what vape products can be sold in the State of Maryland. This Bill seems to suggest the banning of open system vapor products and low-nicotine devices. This will be detrimental to customers who are trying to ween themselves off of nicotine or who are unable to quit but want to use less nicotine. The open system allows customers to start at the same nicotine level as a cigarette and gradually weening themselves off of nicotine. Then the customer can work on the hand to mouth addiction associated with daily activities without the withdraw of nicotine. Making it easier for them to accomplish their goal of quitting.

This bill will cripple reputable retailers who are following the rules. The solution is better licensing and removing the products from convenience stores, gas stations, and other outlets shown to be irresponsible.

Thank you,
Richard Wisniewski