

My name is Sherrie Dorsey, I am 65 years old and I live in Mankato, MN. I am here today to implore you to oppose HF 904. In February of 2010, I was rushed to the hospital by ambulance in total respiratory failure after smoking cigarettes for 35 years. The cardiologist later told me I was literally 5-10 minutes from dying. I tried EVERYTHING to quit, the patch, the gum, Chantix, cold turkey, and even hypnosis. Nothing worked for me until I discovered vaping and flavored e-liquid. As part of my yearly physical, I had a CT scan done on my lungs and it came back showing no signs that I had ever been a smoker and no ill effects from vaping.

Flavors are important for adult vapers who have quit smoking

- The claim that adult vapers “don’t need” flavored products is a political position, not a scientific one. E-liquid is flavored because the flavor is a key feature of the product. It’s an advantage vaping has over smoking
- Research shows adult vapers who have quit smoking prefer fruit, dessert and candy flavors above all others especially tobacco.
- It should not be taken as a given that adult products that appeal to adolescents should be banned. According to a 2019 study by researchers at Yale University, the use of these flavors is associated with positive smoking cessation outcomes for adults but is not associated with increased youth smoking.

As with any prohibition, a flavor ban will not in fact ‘clear the market of flavored e-cigarettes’, it will provoke a series of market and consumer responses, some of which may cause more harm than good.

The likely consequences include:

- The closure of thousands of small to medium-sized businesses as the products they make and sell are predominantly flavored. Many of these also provide a market-based supportive service to smokers wishing to take up vaping as an alternative to smoking.
- The development of a new and flourishing black market in flavored nicotine e-liquids manufactured by amateurs, opportunists, and criminal enterprise. Black markets may supply adulterated products made in unsanitary, unregulated conditions which will increase the overall risks *to both adults and adolescents*.
- Migration of users to the existing unregulated sub-culture of DIY mixing of nicotine and food flavors.

Policymakers should respond to reasonable concerns that are proportionate to risk. It is clear that flavored vaping products are instrumental in aiding adult smokers in their quest to quit smoking cigarettes. Legislation on vaping flavors must take this fact into account, and we urge legislators against the widespread implementation of such bans. As has been demonstrated, we know that flavor bans reignite the problems of prohibition, which is a net negative for society, both in terms of criminal activity and consumer safety. We also know that banning flavors runs the very serious risk of nudging vapers back to smoking cigarettes.

Thank you for your time and on behalf of myself and all Minnesota vapers, small business owners, and the adult consumers they serve who use flavored vapor products, I am asking you to not sign my death warrant and OPPOSE HF 904.