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Good Afternoon Chairman Davis and members of the committee,

I am here to ask you for the amendment that the MVA has proposed to this bill, an exemption for vape shops. I have been in front of this committee now for over 3 years and once again I'm here trying to fight for my livelihood. I am a disabled Veteran of the United States Army living with Multiple Sclerosis and the vapor industry gave me a second chance at a financial future while helping me to quit cigarettes using flavored vapor. We agree that kids should not be using these products. We are in favor in truly punitive repercussions for retailers that sell to minors. Its time to start taking away these people's ability to do business.

Speaking of taking away people's ability to do business a flavor ban does just that for vape shops. Vapor is the only product we sell, and we have had an excellent track record in **NOT** selling to minors proven by the compliance checks done by the state of Maryland and the FDA. A flavor ban only hurts small businesses and while we go out of business the people who are actively selling to minors will stay in business and proliferate. This bill hands the vapor industry in Maryland over to Big Tobacco, JUUL, black markets and the convenience stores, the Wal-Marts, the CVS's and the tobacco stores who have been proven to be selling these products to minors and they will continue to do so.

Without this amendment our businesses will close immediately, and we will go bankrupt. My daughter Kaylee is here today with me and she has seen first hand how flavored vapor has saved my life. She is currently studying and training to complete her black belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. She, with her sister Emma is also studying ballet. My son is only 3 years old but I'm sure he will have an interest that I can indulge him in. Although young I am truly proud of my daughters accomplishments and I wish for them to continue and not be hindered.

If you single handedly end the vapor industry in Maryland with this bill it will bankrupt me and my family. My kids will be withdrawn from Karate and ballet and any other activity that takes financial resources. My daughter has worked too hard for what she has accomplished, just to see it crumble before her face at such a young age. This is the reality for me and hundreds of small businesses in Maryland that this bill will destroy. This bill will also force thousands of Marylanders back into smoking cigarettes which we know also destroy families. You can read firsthand from the people you will send back into smoking by the postcards presented here today.

As a disabled Veteran living with a chronic disease, I will ask you not to destroy my livelihood and my children's early dreams. This bill is not good for Maryland's health its not good for Maryland's families and I vigorously urge you to accept the amendment we have proposed and save small businesses and the families attached to them. I also want to urge you to start punishing retailers that sell to minors with more than just a fine so we don't have to be back here next year fighting for our livelihood again.