

My name is CJ and I am 13 years old.

I watched my Dad struggle with his addiction to cigarettes ever since I can remember.

Each time he tried the patch or gum he would always tell me that this time he was really going to do it, and when he'd go back to smoking I think it hurt him more that he knew I was disappointed.

My Dad promised me for Christmas one year that he would quit smoking. I know he tried so hard, but it didn't happen again.

One day my Dad came home with a vape. The vape my dad uses isn't like the Juul.

I think my life is just as important as every other kid here today. And that includes me having a healthy Dad who can now play sports with me, and even help coach my football team.

All the posters hung around my school about how bad vaping is, has made my friends curious. I am there to tell them the truth: Vaping is only for adults who need to quit smoking.

Since my Dad has told me about vapes and talks to me about them, I know that it is something I will never be interested in doing. Vaping is to help adults quit smoking. I am glad I have a Dad who talk to me about things like this.

My Dad no longer smells like cigarettes and I don't feel embarrassed anymore when my friends come over.

My Dad no longer wheezes and coughs and can now run and play with me.

My Dad is the best Dad because he finally found something that helped him quit cigarettes, and I know he did it for me.

It makes me very sad to listen to the people here today shame my Dad for using a vape to stop smoking. I am very proud of my Dad and I think it is the best thing he has ever done for himself and for me.

I've seen how worried and upset my Dad has been since he heard that he may no longer be able to get the vape juice that got him off of cigarettes and kept him off of cigarettes. He is very scared he may go back to smoking.

Today I am begging you to not pass a bill that will send my Dad back to smoking cigarettes. My life matters and so does his.

I have one final question: Why haven't you banned cigarettes?

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