

Liliana Katz-Hollander
Kensington, MD
Support for HB3

February 4, 2020

Good Afternoon Chairman Davis and members of the economic matters committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Liliana Katz-Hollander, and I am in 7th grade at North Bethesda Middle School, and I live in Kensington, Maryland. I am here to voice my strong support for HB3. This is why.

Throughout my whole life, I have been taught that smoking is bad. Recently, I have also learned about the many negative effects Vaping and E-Cigarettes can have on a person's health-especially kids. Not just bad, but TERRIBLE. So, personally, I would never want to smoke, or vape, or use e-cigarettes. However, I know that some teens don't know that vaping is bad for their health. These kids are doing something that seems "cool" or "fun" without knowing that the side effects are just as bad, if not worse, as smoking.

At my school, which is grades 6-8, there is a vaping problem. In the bathrooms, after school. In my grade, which is 7th grade, there are people vaping. That's 12 and 13-year-olds, causing irreversible damage to their health. Furthermore, secondhand smoke can be deadly if you are exposed to it often enough, so people who vape and smoke are not only risking their health and lives but also those of the people around them-like me.

It is critical to end the sale of Flavored Tobacco , like bubblegum, strawberry, and mint, because they specifically appeal to kids and teens. You might ask, doesn't everyone love flavors, not just kids? Well, as I'm sure you're aware, most kids don't have the control. So, sometimes, my parents will tell me not to eat a piece of candy. And I usually eat it, because, it's candy. The same thoughts might be going through my classmate's minds, that it tastes good, and what's the harm it could do? The tobacco flavors, combined with disinformation spread by Big Tobacco, is leading to a whole new generation of kids getting addicted to tobacco-a generation everyone thought would be safe.

This state has made crucial steps towards helping to stop this crisis, such as the passage of Tobacco 21 last year, but there is still much more work to be done to make sure that me, my classmates, and kids all over the State, have a better chance to lead healthier lives.

Please keep in mind my testimony while making your decision-and remember, ending the sale of Flavored Tobacco could help keep tobacco out of the hands of thousands of kids. Thank you, and I urge swift passage of HB3 to protect Maryland Youth like me from the harms of Tobacco.

Sincerely,

Liliana Katz-Hollander
7th Grade student at North Bethesda Middle School
Kensington Maryland Resident