

Goulet, Morgan (OHHS)

From: Keith Joseph <kcohenskali@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 2:57 PM
To: Pullano, Paula (RIDOH)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : I appose the flavor ban

Hi Paula,

I am a 38 year old former smoker and I was only able to quit smoking with the aid of flavored vapor products. After smoking for over 16 years and trying all other smoking cessation products that failed for me over and over again, this worked for me and I believe that it saved my life. I have been vaping now for almost 8 years and have lowered my nicotine in take to 0. I believe that it is my right as an adult to vape flavored vapor products.

I don't believe that minors should be using these products at all. I just know that prohibition is not the answer and history easily shows it. A blanket ban on flavored products is not going to achieve the goal of getting children to stop experimenting or using vaping devices. The 2019 national tobacco data stated that over 75% of children tried vaping for another reason other than flavor. They are vaping for the buzz not the flavor. These measures that you are proposing will not stop or protect our youth from vaping.

Honestly it seems that these measures are counterintuitive to protecting public health. With over 480,000 deaths linked to smoking and among so many other smoking related illnesses I can't see why someone job it is to protect public health see this as a reasonable measure.

I not sure if your position is appointed by Gina or she is just putting pressure on the department and this is all politically motivated. I know that the state received 40M from the master settlement agreement and tobacco taxes on top of it. I can see their political motives with a 200M deficit in our budget. You represent the Rhode Island department of Health your only motivation should be on insuring the health of our states population.

What the Governor has done already has caused job loss, loss of small business, people going back to smoking and driven tax dollars to CT and NH. I really hope that you consider viable alternatives to creating more harm than good.

Sincerely,
Keith Cohen-Skali
(Rhode Island resident)