

## Goulet, Morgan (OHHS)

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**From:** Tim champagne <tchamp68@att.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 6, 2020 7:06 AM  
**To:** Pullano, Paula (RIDOH)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Flavor Ban opposition

My name is Tim Champagne, Im a father, grandfather, husband, brother, voter taxpayer and an employer for two small businesses. I was a 25 year smoker who lost both parents to smoking related Cancer/illnesses. I tried to quit smoking cigarettes 20 yrs ago and every year after that to improve my health and be around a little longer for my family. I tried gums and patches and even cold turkey and all failed. I started to experiment with vaping in 2011 and had no luck with earlier technology. As the industry improved I tried once again in 2015, I was at that point a three pack a day smoker and my health was declining quickly. I told my wife I was going to make the switch in April of 2015 with the use of a vaper device that was just coming to market that offered better results with better technology. To keep it short, I have been smoke free since that day. I quit using strawberry custard and cheesecake flavors and still use this flavor today in 2019. Im sure all of you, my representatives have heard a familiar story and Im pretty sure all of you have staffers or family members with this same story. Vape did help me to quit smoking and flavors are a key component in this technology. As you know prohibition does not work, Banning anything is not American, as an adult I have the right, freedom and liberty to make choices. I am a small business owner that employees 6 young adults that also pay taxes, mortgages, college tuition and raise families of their own, a flavor ban will close my business because flavored nicotine is 90% of my total revenue.

Real effects of Flavor bans:

- \* Bans will push millions back to combustible tobacco
- \* Bans will cause harm to public health
- \* Bans will not keep teens from experimenting and will push more to marijuana
- \* Bans will create a dangerous black market
- \* Bans will take a product made in clean room facilities and will be made in unclean environments
- \* Bans will create unemployment forcing hundreds of thousands of people to being jobless 150K jobs nationwide
- \* Bans will close an estimated 15,000 small businesses
- \* Bans will have an impact on the economy estimated \$22.4 billion nationwide

I would ask you to please do further research into this topic. The health Benefits outweigh teen curiosity, step up enforcement on youth offenders and their guardians or parents. Putting people at risk and shutting down businesses is not what this state needs.

Sincerely,  
Tim Champagne

Sent from my iPhone 5