

Kristin Jackson
Brunswick
LD 1215

My name is Kristin Jackson, I'm a Brunswick resident and a mother, and I'm submitting testimony in strong support of LD 1215, An Act to End the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products.

My dad was a pack-a-day smoker from when he was a teenager up until the day he died (at the young age of 58). I saw the addictive hold nicotine had over him. When my siblings and I were in D.A.R.E and learning about how bad smoking was for you, we begged him to stop. We'd steal his cigarettes and throw them in the toilet. He'd always just go out and buy more.

My generation was making incredible strides at reducing tobacco use, but e-cigarettes and flavored tobacco products have drastically reversed that trend. 90% of young adults who use e-cigarettes use flavored products and 4 out of 5 kids started using tobacco with flavored products. I have friends who would never smoke a traditional cigarette, but can't put down their mango juul pods.

We need to stop prioritizing corporate profit over public health. Tobacco companies use flavored tobacco products and aggressive marketing tactics to target and hook kids and marginalized communities.

Please support LD 1215 and end the sale of flavored tobacco products that are harming our health, taxing our healthcare systems, costing our taxpayers, and setting our youth up for a lifetime of addiction.