

Good afternoon Senator Pouliot, Representative Perkins, and joint standing committee on Health and Human services. My name is Rajel Hippler. I am a parent, a sibling, and a concerned community member of Oakland. I am here today to testify in favor of LD1215, ending the sale of flavored tobacco products. Flavored tobacco has been around for as long as I can remember. It started out as just menthol, but as time went on, more flavors were added. Fruity, fun flavors I might add. I remember being so intrigued as a teenager because I had seen vapes and vapes had mango, strawberry, blackberry, grape, and the list goes on. I remember wanting to try it just to see if it actually tasted like that fruit. These products are proven to appeal to children and lead to nicotine addiction, disordered brain development, tobacco-related illness, and early death. It's time to give our children a CHANCE to learn and grow, without threats from countless fruity, sweet, or minty flavored tobacco products. We are responsible for our children's future. We are responsible for keeping them SAFE. PLEASE vote YES on LD1215.