

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Education  
For HB 114

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Hearing Date: April 4, 2023 8:00 AM

Austin Pryor  
Self - Middle School Teacher  
Austin, TX

I apologize for not being able to make my comments in person, as I am a teacher and, no offence, but my students come first. Now, as someone who cares deeply about the children of this fine state that I was born and raised in, I want to ensure that they are living healthy lives and I recognize that e-cigarettes have been a detriment ever since the first JUUL appeared on shelves and smoking became "cool" again.

As a career teacher in a Title 1 school, I really have a heart for our more reluctant learners. I had one student in particular who had been failing a majority of their classes, there was little to no support from home, and when they were at school, they just weren't engaged. I had spent all year trying to make a personal connection with this student, though I only saw them during our advisory period. They showed some interest in graffiti, so I found a few history of graffiti videos on YouTube and discussed them with the child. I noticed how this child always wanted extra breakfast, so I made sure to have extra snacks for them while they were in my room. In January, the child was finally to the point where they would come in during advisory and instantly open up the assignments they needed help with and we would work together on every subject area to get them done. I had finally reached them. At the end of January, this child was caught with a THC vape on campus and due to the commitment of a criminal offence, they were mandatorily placed at the alternative school within my district. All of the progress building that relationship was gone. Fast-forward a couple of weeks and I see on the news that my same student who had finally started to open up and reach their potential, was robbing a convenience store at gunpoint for THC vapes. I completely understand that children should know better and that it is their families job to teach right from wrong. As a teacher, that duty falls to me if the family is unable to provide that guidance. Without the mandatory placement, I might have been able to intervene, but now I'll never have that chance.

We always understand that children make mistakes, from spilling milk to falling off the jungle gym and breaking an arm. We always try to use those mistakes as learning experiences to guide our children to become the best versions of themselves, that is what every parent wants. We want our children to learn and grow into the adults we know they can be. All of this to say, this bill is not the appropriate manner to fight child e-cigarette usage. HB 1872, which would restrict the sale of flavored e-cigarettes does a better job of addressing the real issue without criminalizing our children. We have to address the issue at the source. If there were no THC vapes to rob, my former student wouldn't be facing 2-4 years. I am leaving my comment AGAINST HB 114. Thank you for your time.

Robin Rosenstock, Dr  
self  
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. As a pediatrician I oppose the use of e cigarettes, but I do not think it should be a CRIMINAL offense.