

**Testimony in Opposition to Sub. H.B. No 513 - Amendment to Preempt Local Flavor Control
Rob Crane, MD - Dublin, Ohio - Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation - 12/13/22**

Chair Blessing and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I'm Rob Crane; I'm a family doctor and recently retired as Professor of Family Medicine at OSU. I am an unpaid volunteer for the Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation.

In 1854, London, England was in the throes of a deadly cholera epidemic. A young physician, John Snow, mapped out the houses where children were dying. He found a concentric circle of homes around the Broad Street well in Soho. He presented his data to the city fathers and persuaded them to remove the handle from the pump. The epidemic abated.

Fast forward to 2004 in Central Ohio. The medical science was becoming increasingly clear: second-hand smoke was toxic, causing emphysema, lung cancer and heart disease in folks who had never smoked. This was especially true in non-smokers who were consistently exposed in their workplace. Thirteen local City Councils including Powell, New Albany, Dublin, Westerville and Columbus decided together to ask smokers to step outside to preserve the health of others.

Restaurant and bar owners were concerned and angry. They saw how many of their patrons smoked and were certain they would lose business or close entirely. They were wrong. Then two years later, citizens of the state voted overwhelmingly to take the law statewide. Bars and restaurants ... are thriving. The health of employees was preserved, and many smokers quit. The estimate is this law saves about 1000 Ohioans lives every year.

Step forward again to 2016, and another epidemic was underway - the e-cigarette or vaping epidemic. Schools were besieged, parents were frantic, kids were becoming addicted and sometimes sick because of slickly marketed, highly flavored e-cigarettes, principally JUUL. Again, a large consortium of Central Ohio City Councils listened to the science that backed raising the sales age, and they acted together to enact Tobacco 21 laws. The Vape Shop owners were livid. "We'll lose our businesses!"

Two years later, General Assembly members had heard enough from parents, educators, nurses and doctors. You voted overwhelmingly to raise the sales age. The very next year, President Trump signed legislation to raise the age nationally. And vape shops ... they have multiplied. Youth vaping fell by about a quarter.

Age 21 worked on the *supply* side, but the science showed that work on the *demand* side by taking the candy out of the addictive nicotine products is more effective. 300 cities and several states have already done so. After 6 months of consideration, Columbus passed an ordinance yesterday, and by the end of February, we expect at least 10 other City Councils will do the same.

But this amendment guts the hard work of these local City Councils. It says, "***we are taking away your ability to respond to the concerns of your doctors and nurses, the pleas of your teachers and principals, the cries of your kids and their desperate parents.***" This law makes fools of them all.

12th Grade Cigarette vs E-Cigarette Use

Use in Past 30 Days -- National Youth Tobacco Survey



