

Kate Clark

OSU Delegation

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Pro "E-cigarette Taxation Initiative" of 2025 Opinion Piece

The "E-cigarette Taxation Initiative" of 2025 by delegate Clark from Oral Roberts University, is a bill creating a five cent sales tax on “vapor products” and E-cigarette liquids purchased in the state of Oklahoma. This bill was created with the intention of matching the bills implemented in other states such as Maryland and California which creates a barrier in the process of obtaining “vapor products” and E-cigarettes. The author’s intention when writing this was to prevent minors from accessing these products at the rate they are currently accessed at. The author explained this tax would create a financial barrier between underage individuals and these products and put the money generated back into the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET).

This bill does create a perceived barrier by the implementation of a sales tax, which does not have a large impact on regular life but only on those going to obtain these products. This bill will not affect individuals who do not buy these products. As well as the profit coming from this tax going into the TSET program. The goal of this bill is to prevent harmful products from being bought and would effectively create a small barrier for the purchase of these products in the state of Oklahoma. While discussing this bill the public consensus was it is an effective preventative measure.

I support this bill as the state can identify a genuine need for the state to protect minors from accessing these products which can be harmful to their health. The author mentioned to me

several times the rate of Oklahoma teen vaping which is a genuine problem for the state to want to create a preventative measure. As a bill this effectively targets this specific problem of vapor products use and provides an effective way to counter with little public interference.