

Student Name

Verwys

AP Seminar

6 November, 2019

Political and Historical View on the Banning of Flavored E-cigarettes

The sixth person in the United States has died from lung disease related to vaping, Kansas health officials said (Kaplan, Sheila). Even with facts like these looming above our heads the issue of vaping has only continues to grow. The debate on vaping and flavored e-cigarettes has begun to increase over the past several years after it was introduced in 2015. More concerns have begun to developed especially as more students are being exposed to it. Historically government has experience with such as issue when it came to tobacco products. In order to have a better understanding of the current climate around vaping, it's necessary to look at the role the government has played in the regulation of tobacco advertisements, as well as how that ban affected the production and consumption of tobacco products.

Government has dealt with an issue like the debate over vaping before with tobacco regulations. In 2009 Obama signed the Family Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. “ This legislation gives the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate the production, sale, distribution, and marketing of all tobacco products, with emphasis on how tobacco is marketed toward children, including banning flavored cigarettes.” (Greenberg, Leslie). This shows what steps the government took in trying to reduce the impact of tobacco on the public. The government did not ban the selling or buying of certain tobacco products only the marking of tobacco was regulated so that tobacco would no longer be supported but not taken

away from the public. No steps were taken to remove tobacco products from the market even though it was apparent that the government did not support the product due to health reasons.

Regulations have been put up to try to reduce the amount of people who smoke but the question is, did it really work? To answer that one must look at research done by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on what percent of the population of Americans who smoked quit. It was reported back in 2015, only four years after the Family Prevention and Tobacco Control Act was passed that nearly 59.1% (52.8 million) had quit. This proves that the government's actions in trying to decrease the amount of smokers worked by simply regulating the advertisement of tobacco products. The CDC reported that now there are nearly 40 million adults in the United States although in 2017, it was reported that there was roughly 34.3 million smokers. Although the increase for numbers seems negative these numbers also include people who smoke vapes and e-cigarettes which has dramatically increased in the past couple years. This proves that the government's actions in trying to decrease the amount of smokers worked by simply regulating the advertisement of tobacco products. This information purely shows that although the number of people smoking cigarettes has decreased, the total amount of smokers is actually increasing due to the introduction of e-cigarettes. E-cigarettes were introduced in attempts to help smokers quit due to the sudden new pressure to quit smoking but as a result now of days, vaping actually does the opposite of its purpose by getting nonsmoker to become addicted to nicotine.

The government has played a part in the regulation of tobacco advertisements, as well as the decrease of production and consumption of tobacco products. Now using this when debating the possible outcomes of the government banning flavored e-cigarettes can help develop

educated decisions based off prior experiences. The marketing of e-cigarettes is already underway of being regulated just like how tobacco was but banning flavored e-cigarettes in general will most likely bring even more debates and disagreements on the right people have to buy products and companies to sell products. When it comes to the federal involvement in the banning of flavored e-cigarettes we should look to our past to get inspiration for our future.

Word count: 644

Work Cited

Kaplan, Sheila. "Trump Administration Plans to Ban Flavored E-Cigarettes." *The New York*

Times, The New York Times, 11 Sept. 2019,

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/11/health/trump-vaping.html>.

Greenberg, Leslie. "ONS Efforts to Snuff Out Tobacco Were a Success in 2009." *ONS Connect*,

vol. 25, no. 1, Jan. 2010, p. 8. *EBSCOhost*,

search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=asn&AN=48239045&site=ehost-live.

"Data and Statistics." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention, 28 Feb. 2019,

https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/index.htm?s_cid=osh-stu-home-nav-005.

"Quitting Smoking Among Adults-United States, 2000-2015." *Centers for Disease Control and*

Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 9 Mar. 2018,

https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/mmwrs/byyear/2017/mm6552a1/index.html.