

April 23, 2021

Joint Committee on Finance  
Room 305 East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Co-Chairs Born and Marklein, and Members of the Committee,

First of all, thank you for everything you do for us! My name is Cassie Phillips and I attend school in Kaukauna. I am 13 years old and am in 8th grade at River View Middle School.

I am writing today because I am a member of FACT, Wisconsin's youth tobacco prevention movement, and want to share with you why I believe it is important to support youth programs like FACT. I joined FACT because I know loved ones who use tobacco products and have seen the harmful effects. Since I have joined FACT, I have met with Wisconsin legislators, wrote a letter to the editor, done community cleanup, and much more to spread the word of the negative effects nicotine can have on your life.

FACT is very important to me because we have the potential to change lives by educating our peers and community about the dangers of tobacco use. Nicotine is highly addictive and many teens face the temptations of trying those products. With targeted advertisements and candy-flavored products, more youth than ever are becoming addicted to e-cigarettes. We can continue to educate all teens with youth tobacco prevention programs like FACT to ensure a whole new generation isn't addicted to nicotine.

Even though smoking in Wisconsin has reduced greatly, it is still a problem. We need to help youth who are addicted to nicotine and educate those before they even choose to start. Since starting in 2001, FACT has reached hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin youth. However, we need to reach more. This is why we need to continue the work we're doing.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

*Cassie Phillips*

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