

# Support S2844

Good afternoon Chairman and members of the Committee,

My name is David Kelley, and I am a Rhode Island resident and co-owner of Vaporetti, a vapor specialty store in East Providence. I am writing in support of S2844.

My support for this legislation is deeply personal.

My mother was a long-time cigarette smoker who was never able to quit. I watched her suffer and ultimately lose her life to smoking. It was a painful and devastating experience that I would not wish on anyone.

Because of that, I never wanted my wife to face the same fate.

My wife was also a long-time smoker, for over 20 years, and like so many others, struggled to quit. What finally worked for her was switching to e-cigarettes. That transition allowed her to break free from smoking in a way nothing else had before.

That experience is what led us to open our business.

We started Vaporetti to help people like my wife find an alternative to cigarettes, and to help prevent others from going through what my mother did.

Policies that restrict access to these products make it harder for adults to move away from smoking. The demand does not disappear — it simply pushes people out of state or toward unregulated sources.

I urge you to support this legislation so that adults in Rhode Island have access to these alternatives in responsible, age-restricted retail environments.

Please consider the real human impact behind this issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and thank you to Senator Palmer and the bill sponsors for bringing this forward.

Sincerely,

[David B Kelley](#)

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David Kelley  
Pawtucket, Rhode Island