



Oregon Pediatric Society

A Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Incorporated in Oregon

February 6, 2020

TO: The Honorable Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair
Senate Committee on Health Care

FROM: Ryan Hassan, MD, MPH, FAAP
Oregon Pediatric Society member

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 1577 on Banning Vaping Flavors

The Oregon Pediatric Society is the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Our members are committed to improving the health and well-being of all Oregon children. My name is Dr. Ryan Hassan, and I am a pediatrician working in Happy Valley, Oregon. I am writing to urge you to please support SB1577, which bans most vaping flavors.

Since electronic cigarettes first came on the market over a decade ago, public health professionals warned that it was an untested, unknown product, that should be studied thoroughly before being put on to the market, to ensure it really was the “safer alternative to smoking” that it was marketed as. Unfortunately, as with tobacco products, leaded gasoline and paints, fossil fuels, and so many other harmful products ubiquitous across the country today, it was left to American consumers to be the unwitting test subjects of this product. The results have been disastrous.

Though vaping has indeed helped many adults to quit smoking, it has also had the far more widespread consequence of addicting an entire new generation of children to nicotine, and has proven to be the “gateway” drug that it was initially feared to be. Furthermore, e-cigarette manufacturers, many of whom continue to advertise themselves as a “safe alternative to smoking”, despite being owned by the largest tobacco industries in this country, have shamelessly marketed their products to children, creating flavors like cotton candy, banana split, and froot loops (like the children’s cereal), and discrete vaping devices that make it easy for children to vape unnoticed in schools, which has been happening at alarming and increasing rates.

Furthermore, the electronic cigarette industry has now created a new deadly disease, known as e-cigarette, or vaping, product use-associated lung injury, or EVALI. This respiratory illness exclusively affects e-cigarette users, and over half of cases have occurred in children and young adults under 25 years of age. As of 1/21/2020, the CDC reports there have been 2,711 patients hospitalized with EVALI, and 60 deaths. That’s 60 people who are dead because we have allowed corporate greed to take precedence over common sense scientific inquiry and safeguarding of public health.



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This legislation will not end the epidemic of adolescent nicotine addiction caused by e-cigarettes, but it will significantly reduce the number of children who become addicted, and reduce their risk of illness or death from EVALI, as well as whatever unknown long-term consequences vaping might cause in the future. Please prioritize the health and safety of our children over the profits of industry, and vote yes on SB1577, the child flavors vaping ban.