



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: Angela Zallen, MD
Member of the Oregon Pediatric Society

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 1577 on banning vaping product flavors

The Oregon Pediatric Society (OPS) 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. Angela Zallen, and I am a pediatric hospitalist in Springfield, Oregon.

OPS supports the passage of SB1577 which will ban flavored vaping products in Oregon to help prevent young people from starting to use tobacco. I urge you to support this bill to protect the children and teens that I and my clinician colleagues care for.

Flavored tobacco products are unabashedly targeted to teens by the e-cigarette industry to promote early addiction and thereby creating lifelong consumers of their products. According to the 2018 National Youth Tobacco survey, more than 20% of high school students and more than 5% of middle school students endorsed using e-cigarettes in the prior 30 days. That equates to more than 3 million children in this country who have begun using e-cigarettes. Greater than 95% of tobacco users begin using tobacco products under the age of 21.

Over the last few decades, our national and state legislatures have recognized the risk of early addiction to tobacco and the dangers of tobacco use in young people, and have done an impressive job at helping to decrease tobacco use by our youth. With the advent of e-cigarettes and the concomitant perception of safety by young people, we have seen a resurgence of tobacco use in teens. Along with increased tobacco and vaping use, physicians have seen more acute health effects like vaping related lung injury and asthma exacerbations, and anticipate more given that the aerosolized chemicals in e-cigarettes are potent respiratory irritants. Recent deaths from vaping related lung injury has shown us how much we didn't know about these products. My colleagues and I have seen teenagers in our hospital who have struggled to recover from anesthesia because of the previously unknown lung effects from vaping. As a pediatrician who takes care of these young people on a daily basis, we need to take a stand as a state against the e-cigarette and tobacco industries to protect this vulnerable population.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important issue. If I can be a resource for the committee, I am happy to be available at azallen@peacehealth.org.