



September 12, 2019

The Honorable Matt Hall
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Chairman Hall:

Michigan Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) has represented family physicians, family medicine resident physicians, and medical students in Michigan since 1948. Today it is the largest medical specialty association in the state, representing more than 4,200 members who serve primary healthcare needs in Michigan. Family physicians conduct approximately one in five medical office visits each year, more than any other medical specialty. Family medicine's cornerstone is an ongoing, personal patient-physician relationship focused on whole-person, integrated, comprehensive care.

We strongly urge support of Governor Whitmer's declaration of youth vaping as a public health emergency. Teen electronic cigarette and vaping use is rising rapidly, partly in response to new flavors which are marketed toward adolescents. Over 20 percent of high school students report using these nicotine products in the last month. Nearly 68 percent of those students are using flavored e-cigarettes.¹

A family physician will often see patients throughout their lifespan, and even families across multiple generations. Patients who start using tobacco and nicotine products at a young age often continue the use later in life. Those who first start using with flavored products are even more likely to use tobacco and nicotine products as adults.² Additionally, a child of a smoker will become a smoker 29 percent of the time, as opposed to children of non-smokers at 8 percent.³

Manufacturers and marketers are targeting teens by advertising e-cigarettes as cheaper and safer alternatives to traditional cigarettes.⁴ These claims are being made despite studies which show several

¹ Cullen KA, Ambrose BK, Gentzke AS, Apelberg BJ, Jamal A, King BA. Notes from the Field: Increase in use of electronic cigarettes and any tobacco product among middle and high school students — United States, 2011–2018.

² Villanti, A.C., A.L. Johnson, B.K. Ambrose, et al., "Flavored Tobacco Product Use in Youth and Adults: Findings From the First Wave of the PATH Study (2013–2014)," *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 53(2):139–151, 2017.

³ Mike Vuolo, Jeremy Staff. Parent and Child Cigarette Use: A Longitudinal, Multigenerational Study. 2013.

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Electronic nicotine delivery systems. Key facts.

www.cdc.gov/tobacco/infographics/policy/pdfs/electronic-nicotine-delivery-systems-key-facts-infographic.pdf(www.cdc.gov).



harmful effects likely caused by increases in nicotine levels in the blood,⁵ multiple physical symptoms,⁶ and negative effects on indoor air.⁷

Family physicians strongly urge individuals of all ages to refrain from using these products and devices. While the long-term safety data are not yet available on these relatively new products and devices, we do know that e-cigarettes and vapor contain harmful compounds such as nicotine, heavy metals, and flavoring agents which have been confirmed to increase the risk of high blood pressure, diabetes, and chronic lung disease, as well as impair brain development in children and teens. We applaud Governor Gretchen Whitmer's bold actions to protect Michigan's youth from the harmful effects of e-cigarettes and vaping.

President Trump along with Secretary Alex Azar and The Food and Drug Administration, just yesterday announced they are taking similar action to Governor Whitmer with proposed policy which would ban the sale of flavored e-cigarettes. MAFP will continue to support all actions eliminating the harmful products from public use.

⁵ Dawkins L, Corcoran O. Acute electronic cigarette use: nicotine delivery and subjective effects in regular users. *Psychopharmacology*. 2014;231(2):401-407.

⁶ Hua M, Alfi M, Talbot P. Health-related effects reported by electronic cigarette users in online forums. *J Med Internet Res*. 2013;15(4):e59.

⁷ Schober W, Szendrei K, Matzen W, et al. Use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) impairs indoor air quality and increases FeNO levels of e-cigarette consumers. *Int J Hyg Environ Health*. 2014;217(6):628-637.