



American
Heart
Association.



February 26, 2019

The Honorable Michael Webber, Chairman
House Committee on Regulatory Reform
P.O. Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Re: Opposition to House Bill 4164

Mr. Chairman,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments concerning House Bill 4164. First our organizations support evidence-based policies to reduce the death and disease associated with the use of tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes. The United States Food and Drug Administration has taken swift actions to crack down on retailers selling e-cigarettes to persons under 18. Rather than expanding the definition of tobacco products to encompass all tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices and regulating them as such, House Bill 4164, creates new categories of products which will lead to exempting these products from proven public health policies, therefore we cannot support this bill.

It is exactly this type of legislation that has created the public health epidemic of e-cigarette use among youth that we are currently facing. We should learn from the experiences of other states that have already gone down this path paved by tobacco industry lobbyists. Moving forward with House Bill 4164 will unnecessarily sow confusion, send a mixed health message to the public on a subject that is already complex and confusing to many.

House Bill 4164 does not ensure that e-cigarettes are regulated in the interest of public health.

We stand committed to working with whomever is interested in regulating these products in the correct way, by defining them as tobacco. House Bill 4164's short cut to hastily create regulations will only create a regulatory disaster that will need continual reworking for years to come. Please take a minute, and create legislation that truly addresses the issue, protecting all of Michigan's youth for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Andrew R. Schepers
ACS CAN

David Hodgkins
American Heart
Association

Ken Fletcher
American Lung
Association