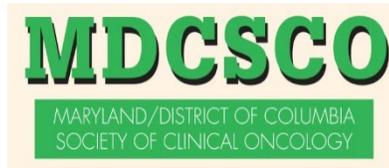




The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Clarence K. Lam

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

DATE: February 16, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 259 – *Business Regulation – Flavored Tobacco Products – Prohibition*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland/District of Columbia Society of Clinical Oncology, and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we **support** Senate Bill 259.

Senate Bill 259 prohibits the sale of flavored tobacco products into or within the State. Smoking remains one of the leading causes of preventable death in the United States. Nicotine can slow brain development in youth, particularly in the areas of impulse control, attention span and the ability to learn. It can also prime the brain for further addiction to other drugs.

Prohibiting flavorings for all tobacco products is likely to reduce tobacco use, especially among young people. Candy and fruit flavored products are particularly attractive to young people because sweet or minty flavors are often perceived to be safer though they have the same or worse health effects as other tobacco products.

Passage of Senate Bill 259 will help prevent young people from using tobacco products or becoming smokers. The bill reflects Maryland's historical commitment to reducing tobacco product use and the associated health consequences. A favorable report is requested.