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MEDCHI OFFERS SUPPORT FOR WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

BALTIMORE - May 31, 2024 – Today marks World No Tobacco Day, a day to highlight the harmful effects of tobacco and raise awareness of the benefits of quitting. The theme for this year, set by the World Health Organization, is “Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference.” Over the years, there has been a lot of progress in reducing tobacco use, but the emergence of e-cigarettes and other new tobacco and nicotine products present a threat and are especially appealing to our youth.

MedChi has supported several bills over the past several years to minimize the availability of tobacco products to help protect Maryland’s overall public health, but especially to help protect our youth. MedChi supported bills that state:

- a licensee may not manufacture, ship, import, or sell into or within the State a tobacco product with a taste or smell of fruit, mint, candy, or other non-tobacco flavors. 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.
- a county or municipality can enact and enforce local laws regulating the sale and distribution of cigarettes, other tobacco products, and electronic smoking devices. This can better address the unique circumstances of their communities and will result in the development of more responsive and effective policies.
- vaping, in addition to smoking, should be added as an update to the Clean Indoor Act to be prohibited in indoor places because reducing secondhand exposure helps create healthier environments for everyone, especially children and nonsmokers who may be negatively affected by secondhand smoke.
- A framework for licensure and regulation of electronic smoking device manufacturers whose products are sold in Maryland should be established to require tobacco product and electronic smoking device manufacturers to meet certification requirements and pay a certification fee.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.