

SCHWARTZ, METZ & WISE, P.A.

ATTORNEYS

20 WEST STREET
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TEL: 410-244-7000

FAX: 410-269-5443

TO: The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chair
Members, House Economic Matters Committee
The Honorable Aruna Miller

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Joseph A. Schwartz, III
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 11, 2015

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 26 – *Clean Indoor Air Act – Use of Electronic Smoking Devices - Prohibition*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), we support House Bill 26.

House Bill 26 proposes to extend the provisions of Maryland's current ban on indoor smoking to include the use of electronic smoking devices, commonly referred to as E-Cigs. These devices, while considered by some to be an effective approach to smoking cessation, have the potential to create significant health hazards from secondhand vapor in much the same way that secondhand cigarette smoke has been found to have significant negative health consequences. With few exceptions, E-Cigs are not regulated by the FDA and the amount of nicotine that may be present in the vapors that are expelled by these devices varies widely. Furthermore, because they have only recently been broadly utilized by the public, there have been few studies on the health impacts of these devices on either the person who uses them or more importantly on persons who are exposed secondhand to their expelled vapors.

Banning their use indoors is consistent with Maryland's commitment to protect the health and safety of employees and customers. Extending the ban to these devices does not inconvenience those that choose to utilize them, even if for the sole purpose of smoking cessation. A person who smokes must move outside to smoke tobacco and therefore those attempting to stop smoking are used to going outside to smoke and will not need to change their behavior if they have switched to E-Cigs. Furthermore, those individuals for whom the use of these devices is purely recreational should not be permitted to create a health risk to others by permitting them to utilize the device indoors. A requirement that they go outdoors to use the devices is more than justified.

House Bill 26 reflects a logical extension of Maryland's current indoor clean air act prohibitions and a favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Joseph A. Schwartz, III
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000