

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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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: March 11, 2015

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 489 – *Electronic Cigarettes - Sale to Minors - Components, Supplies, and Enforcement*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 8,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 489.

House Bill 489 expands the current ban on the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors to include supplies and component parts associated with their use. This expansion ensures that minors will no longer have access to the products required to utilize an electronic cigarette, including the cartridges which contain nicotine. Since minors can still acquire the refill cartridges, the current ban is of minimal impact once a minor has access to the electronic device.

Minors often try electronic cigarettes because they believe they are safe. Use by high school and middle school students has increased significantly and it is critical that Maryland strengthen the current law to further limit the ability of minors to use electronic cigarettes. The nicotine contained in the refill cartridges is not currently regulated by the FDA and in some instances can be the equivalent of a whole pack of cigarettes. Nicotine is highly addictive and the use of electronic cigarettes by minors could lead to a lifelong nicotine dependence.

MedChi applauds the sponsor's efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the State's ban on the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors and urges a favorable report.

For more information call:

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