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American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™
Maryland Chapter

TO: The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chair
Members, House Economic Matters Committee
The Honorable Dereck E. Davis
The Honorable Ned Carey

FROM: Richard A. Tabuteau
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 27, 2019

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1169 – *Business Regulation – Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices – Revisions*

SUPPORT – House Bill 1185 – *Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems – Prohibitions and Requirements*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1169 and House Bill 1185. House Bill 1169 increases the age for purchasing tobacco products and electronic smoking devices to 21 years of age. House Bill 1185 makes changes to the regulation of electronic nicotine devices, including advertising and marketing parameters.

It is well recognized that the vast majority of smokers begin using tobacco in their youth. Raising the minimum age required to purchase tobacco products and setting standards for the advertising and marketing of e-cigarettes will further limit access to tobacco with the goal of decreasing the prevalence of tobacco use among young people who may start smoking at a time when their behaviors and choices are not well-informed and/or they have not considered the long-term consequences.

According to the thirty-second Surgeon General's report, *The Health Consequences of Smoking – 50 Years of Progress*, smoking rates among teens and adults are less than half what they were in 1964. However, 42-million American adults and 3-million middle and high school students continue to smoke. Further, even though smokers consume fewer cigarettes than 50-years ago, changes in the design and composition of cigarettes put smokers at a higher risk of developing lung cancer. The Surgeon General estimates that the economic costs attributable to smoking and exposure to tobacco smoke from both direct medical costs and lost productivity approach \$300 billion annually.

Passage of House Bill 1169 and House Bill 1185 will help prevent young people from becoming smokers and reflects Maryland's historical commitment to reducing tobacco use and the associated health consequences. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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