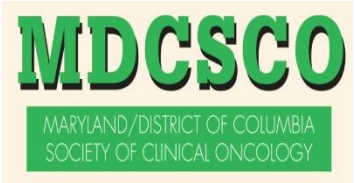




American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™
Maryland Chapter



The Maryland State Medical Society
1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915
1.800.492.1056
www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Pamela Beidle

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

DATE: March 14, 2019

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 708 – *Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems – Prohibitions and Requirements*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Maryland/District of Columbia Society of Clinical Oncology, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 708. Senate Bill 708 makes changes to the regulation of electronic nicotine devices, including advertising and marketing parameters in order to strengthen current prohibitions for the sale of these products to minors and decrease the potential for inadvertent and unsafe access by minors.

It is well recognized that the vast majority of smokers begin using tobacco in their youth. In many respects electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) are becoming the gateway entrance to tobacco use by minors. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services report that, between 2017 and 2018, use of tobacco products by high school and middle school students in the United States increased by 27.1% and 7.2%, respectively. The increase in youth tobacco use is largely attributable to a rise in youth e-cigarette use; between 2017 and 2018, e-cigarette use by high school and middle school students in the United States increased by 78% and 48%, respectively.

Passage of Senate Bill 708 will enhance Maryland's commitment to prohibiting minor's access to ENDS and related products. It will ultimately 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:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Richard A. Tabuteau
410-244-7000