The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 8,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports Senate Bill 7.

Senate Bill 7 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.

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