



Maryland
CHAPTER

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February 3, 2020

Senator Delores Kelley, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SUPPORT FOR SB 233 – Business Regulation – Flavored Tobacco Products – Prohibition

The Maryland Chapter of the American College of Cardiology would like to offer its strong support for Senate Bill 233, which would prohibit flavored tobacco products from being sold.

One of the newest ways industry has found to attract new users, especially teenagers, into a lifetime of nicotine addiction is the addition of flavors to e-tobacco products. These flavors serve only to decrease the harshness and mask the toxicity of the product. The Surgeon General Report on e-cigarettes previously concluded that flavors are among the most commonly cited reasons for increased use of e-cigarettes among youth and young adults.¹ In Maryland, prevalent use of e-cigarettes in high schools increased from 13% in 2016-17 to 23% in 2018-19, representing an increase of 73%.² This increase in tobacco/nicotine use will cause an increase in smoking-related illness, including heart disease. Reducing smoking remains the most cost-effective way to prevent heart disease. We should take every opportunity to restrict access to products that increase its attractiveness, especially among young people.

The Maryland Chapter of the American College of Cardiology respectfully requests the committee give SB 233 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Marine, MD, FACC
President

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. E-Cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General—Executive Summary. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2016. Available at: https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/2016_SGR_Full_Report_non-508.pdf

² Berkowitz D. 26th Annual Maryland State Cancer Control Conference: Maryland tobacco prevention and control updates. Annapolis, MD. November 14, 2019. Available at: <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/State-Finance-and-Procurement-Article-§7-317-Cigarette-Restitution-Fund-Program-Annual-Report-FY-2018.pdf>