

Committee: Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number: Senate Bill 233
Title: Business Regulation - Flavored Tobacco Products - Prohibition
Hearing Date: February 13, 2020
Position: Support

The Association of periOperative Registered Nurses of Baltimore supports *Senate Bill 233 –Business Regulation – Flavored Tobacco Products - Prohibition*. This bill would prohibit certain vaping products.

We have watched reports of illness and death due to e-cigarette use, especially among our youth, with great concern. In addition, the tactics used by e-cigarette companies to target youth mirror tactics used by cigarette companies in the past. Many of us recall a time when Camel targeted kids with “Joe Camel”, which boosted youth smoking rates significantly. Fortunately, public health advocates have made great strides to reverse that trend in recent decades.

However, now we see e-cigarette companies marketing with the same goal -- using mint, candy, fruit, or chocolate flavors to entice young people to start using their product and possibly secure a customer for life. Lets use lessons learned in the past to address this issue now.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.