

SAMUEL I. "SANDY" ROSENBERG
Legislative District 41
Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair
Health Occupations and
Long-Term Care Subcommittee

House Chair
Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Respond to Office Indicated

□ *Annapolis Office*
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 365
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3297 · 301-858-3297
800-492-7122 Ext. 3297
Samuel.Rosenberg@house.state.md.us

□ *District Office*
4811 Liberty Heights Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21207
410-664-2646

Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg

Before the Senate Finance Committee

in Support of

House Bill 321

**Cigarette Restitution Fund – Payments for Sale and
Marketing of Electronic Smoking Devices – Use**

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

In Maryland, we have a long tradition of directing the settlements negotiated by our Attorney General's Office to aid the injured parties.

In 2000, the General Assembly ensured that monies from the massive Tobacco Settlement Agreement between the states and the tobacco industry were used to create the Cigarette Restitution Fund, to provide focused support to programs intended to reduce the burden of tobacco-related diseases in Maryland, with a special emphasis on the prevention and cessation of tobacco use and cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment.

More recently, with funds awarded through settlements with prescription opioid makers and distributors, we created the Opioid Restitution Fund to support opioid abatement programs throughout the state.

Now we have another opportunity to aid Marylanders who are suffering at the hands of bad actors. This time, we can prevent young people from being misled by advertising and marketing around e-cigarettes and vaping.

Last December, the attorneys general of more than 30 states concluded their investigation of JUUL Labs, announcing an agreement with the e-cigarette manufacturer to pay the states more than \$434 million and cease its misleading and predatory marketing and sales practices, primarily targeting underage users.

From that financial settlement, Maryland expects to receive at least \$13 million.

House Bill 321 would ensure that the monies from the settlement with JUUL, as well as any future settlements with other e-cigarette manufacturers, are used to address the harms these products created. The settlement monies would be used to reduce the use of tobacco products by those under the age of 21. Without this law, those settlement monies would go into the general fund.

I urge a favorable report on House Bill 321.

March 22, 2023