

TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Annie Coble
Assistant Director, State Affairs

DATE: March 22, 2023

RE: HB321 CIGARETTE RESTITUTION FUND – PAYMENTS FOR SALE AND
MARKETING OF ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES – USE

Johns Hopkins supports **HB321 Cigarette Restitution Fund – Payments for Sale and Marketing of Electronic Smoking Devices – Use**. This bill requires the use of any proceeds to the State resulting from litigation related to e-cigarettes to be dedicated to the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF).

In November 1998, the five major tobacco companies and 47 states, five territories and Washington DC reached a Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) ending the states' suit over medical costs associated with tobacco use. The settling manufactures agreed to pay approximately \$206 billion over the next 25 years and beyond. During the summer of 1999, Governor Glendening announced his vision for the MSA funds that were anticipated by early 2000. Glendening's broad plan included significant funding for cancer prevention, tobacco cessation and tobacco crop conversion. Part of his plan was to provide \$15 million per year for the next 10 years to both Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland for cancer research. Since then, Johns Hopkins Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center has been using the CRF to complete world changing research on cancer prevention and treatment.

Ensuring funds from any litigation related to e-cigarettes would be dedicated to the CRF is the most efficient and effective way to promote the health of Marylanders and to assure that the funds are used to continue efforts to mitigate the harmful effects of tobacco use. The CRF is a proven tool to support the development of educational materials and, provide treatment, and support vital research to promote smoking cessation, reduce tobacco use and cancer prevention.

Accordingly, Johns Hopkins respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on **HB321**.