



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB0321

February 21, 2023

TO: Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Interim Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 0321 – Cigarette Restitution Fund Payments for Sale and Marketing of Electronic Smoking Devices – Use

POSITION: Support

Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Kelly, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 321.

This bill recognizes the impact of e-cigarette use on our public health. It proposes allocating certain funds from the Cigarette Restitution Fund expressly for the purpose of supporting programs aimed at reducing use of tobacco products among youth. This would help reduce the risk of youth exposure to harmful chemicals and prevent the development of nicotine addiction.

Use of electronic smoking devices, or “e-cigarettes,” has been on the rise, particularly among our youth.¹ Data from the National Youth Tobacco Survey found a 78% increase in use of e-cigarettes in middle and high school adolescents from 2017 to 2018, accounting for 3.6 million middle and high-school students using e-cigarettes.² This is concerning, as studies have shown that e-cigarettes contain harmful chemicals and can lead to serious health problems, such as lung damage and nicotine addiction.³ Additionally, a study linked adolescents' use of e-cigarettes to higher odds of progressing from experimental to established use of combustible cigarettes.⁴ On average, smokers die at least 10 years earlier than non-smokers – but quitting smoking before age 40 reduces the risk of death from smoking-related disease by approximately 90%.⁵

Preventing young people from smoking cigarettes in the first place would be a powerful and straight-forward way to protect their health long-term.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 321.

¹ Coke, Lola A. PhD, ACNS-BC, FAHA, FPNCA, FAAN. Vaping and Use of E-Cigarette Products in Adolescents: A New Cardiopulmonary Crisis. The Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing 35(3):p 225-228, 5/6 2020. | DOI: 10.1097/JCN.0000000000000679

² US Food and Drug Administration. (December 20, 2022). Results from the Annual National Youth Tobacco Survey. Retrieved from <https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/youth-and-tobacco/results-annual-national-youth-tobacco-survey>

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (November 10, 2022). Smoking and Tobacco Use – Youth and Tobacco Use. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/youth_data/tobacco_use/index.htm

⁴ Chaffee, B.W., Watkins, S.L., and Glantz, S.A. [Electronic cigarette use and progression from experimentation to established smoking](#). *Pediatrics* 141(4):e20173594, 2018.

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (April 28, 2020). Smoking and Tobacco Use – Tobacco-Related Mortality. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/health_effects/tobacco_related_mortality/index.htm#:~:text=Life%20expectancy%20for%20smokers%20is,years%20shorter%20than%20for%20nonsmokers.&text=Quitting%20smoking%20before%20the%20age.related%20disease%20by%20about%2090%25