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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



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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg

Before the House Ways and Means 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 be 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 suffered at the hands of bad actors, this time, the young people impacted by misleading 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, and any future settlements with other e-cigarette manufacturers, are used to address the harms these products created, by directing that the settlement monies 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 ask a favorable report on House Bill 321.

February 21, 2023