

Support for SB1056

Maryland Vapor Alliance

The Maryland Vapor Alliance represents small business vape shops throughout the State of Maryland. We would like to express our support for SB1056.

We believe that SB1056 is an unequivocal step forward in tobacco and vape product regulation. Reports have consistently shown that small business vape shops have a clean track record in terms of underage compliance checks. This legislation will help to ensure that vape products remain in the hands of responsible retailers, thus ensuring the safety of consumers.

Additionally, we are in full support of an increase in mandated compliance checks and more robust enforcement. Maryland made tremendous progress by increasing the legal age to buy tobacco products to 21. The latest National Youth Tobacco Survey released by the CDC in November of 2023, showed a roughly 25% decrease in overall tobacco product use in 2022-2023, driven largely by a roughly 28% decrease in current e-cigarette use. We believe that this legislation will continue Maryland on that trend. Small business vape shops have played an instrumental role in Maryland's success in ranking near the lowest smoking rate in the United States. We believe that this legislation will help kickstart Maryland towards having THE lowest smoking rate in the country. We are confident that this bill will help to protect small business vape shops and promote a healthier Maryland.

In addition, we support increasing the vape shop vendor license fee to \$300. The bill as drafted left it at the current \$25 fee and we believe that parity with the other licensing fees is fair in order to help alleviate the costs of an increase in compliance enforcement.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter. We appreciate your dedication to the safety and well-being of Maryland's citizens.

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