



*MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.*

**Senate Bill 987** Business Regulation – Electronic Smoking Devices Manufacturers – Certifications

**FAVORABLE**

Senate Finance Committee      Hearing: March 7, 2024

Tobacco is associated with well-known morbidity and mortality. The WHO estimates that 8 million people die prematurely yearly from tobacco use. In addition, it contributes to cancer, heart disease, lung diseases, and diabetes. Although ongoing research into the effects of electronic smoking devices is currently underway, they contain often unknown ultrafine particles, heavy metals, and volatile organic compounds that are inhaled into the lungs. In addition, flavorants, such as diacetyl, are also often used and have been linked to serious lung disease.

We fully support this bill as it adds tight regulations with the aim of informing the public and keeping manufacturers and distributors accountable for relative safety of their products. In addition, we support that this should be funded by the entities manufacturing and distributing the products, rather than the general public.

Thank you for your support,

Joseph Greg Hobelmann, MD, MPH  
Board certified in psychiatry and addiction medicine  
Public Policy Committee