

Senator Pam Beidle
Finance Committee, Chairman
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401
February 25, 2025

**Re: Testimony on SB 0842 (HB 1241) - *Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices-
Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements***

Position: Favorable

Subject: Urging Support for SB 0842

Dear Chairman Beidle,

As a Father of 2 children, an infant and an eleven year old in Baltimore City. I am writing to urge your support for SB 0842. I have seen the harmful effects of tobacco use in my own community and worry about how easily children are exposed to e-cigarettes. I support this bill because I want to ensure that our youth are not the next targets of Big Tobacco.

I appreciate your commitment to protecting children from harmful tobacco products and commend Chairwoman Beidle and Delegate Ampreyfor sponsoring this bill.

Youth vaping is a growing crisis, with **over 48,000 high school students** in Maryland self-reporting tobacco use. E-cigarettes are aggressively marketed to young people, making it even more difficult to keep our kids safe.

The long-term impact of tobacco use is alarming. Maryland spends **\$3.14 billion annually** on smoking-related healthcare costs, and more than **a quarter of cancer-related deaths** in our state are linked to tobacco. If we want to prevent another generation from falling into this cycle, we must act now.

SB 0842 provides much-needed enforcement power to ensure that e-cigarettes are regulated like other tobacco products. It also enhances record-keeping requirements for e-cigarette sales, an essential step in limiting youth access.

With **81% of Maryland voters** supporting stronger action against Big Tobacco, now is the time to act. I urge you to vote in favor of SB 0842 and help safeguard our children's health.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Kofi Ray