



**House Ways & Means Committee
February 18, 2020**

**House Bill 732
Electronic Smoking Devices, Other Tobacco Products, and Cigarettes -
Taxation and Regulation**

Support

NCADD-Maryland supports House Bill 732. Increasing tobacco taxes saves lives by reducing teen and adult smoking. It also reduces short- and long-term health care costs. These are facts proven by decades of experience, including here in Maryland. A report issued by the Abell Foundation in 2018 found:

“Following the \$1.00 per pack cigarette tax increase in 2008, smoking by Maryland adults decreased by 26 percent among current smokers between 2011 and 2016. Among Maryland high school students there was a 47 percent reduction in students who reported smoking a cigarette in the preceding 30 days, as well as a decline in frequent smoking between 2007 and 2015.”

Just like other drugs, nicotine is an addictive substance complete with cravings and withdrawal symptoms when a person tries to quit. It is smart public policy to increase the tobacco tax as the greatest impact of doing so is reducing smoking among young people. People who don't smoke are generally healthier, give birth to healthier babies, and live longer. Senate Bill 3 will also make sure that electronic smoking devices are subject to taxes.

We urge a favorable report on House Bill 732.

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.