



Committee: House Economic Matters Committee
Bill Number: House Bill 134
Title: Business Regulation – Flavored Tobacco Products - Prohibition
Hearing Date: February 10, 2021
Position: Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *House Bill 134 – Business Regulation – Flavored Tobacco Products - Prohibition*. This emergency bill would prohibit manufacturing, shipping, importing, or selling flavored tobacco products, including electronic devices, in the state.

Our country has seen a remarkable decrease in tobacco use in recent decades thanks to robust tobacco control efforts at multiple levels. However, the rise in popularity of e-cigarettes has quickly reversed that progress among today's youth. Results from the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) 2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey show a disturbing increase in the number of youth using e-cigarettes – from 3.6 million in 2018 to 5 million in 2019.

This increase is not surprising given that e-cigarettes are available in a variety of flavors that appeal to youth, such as mint, candy, fruit, or chocolate, and have been marketed as a safer alternative to cigarettes. However, evolving evidence shows that the use of e-cigarettes can cause irreversible lung damage and lung disease. In addition, youth who use e-cigarettes are more likely to start smoking cigarettes.

We must act fast if we are to stop the rising trend of e-cigarette use, which will expose our youth to a potential lifetime of nicotine addiction, cost countless lives, and undermine the worthy investment made in recent decades to decrease tobacco use in our country.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

References: Tobacco Use: Results from the National Youth Tobacco Survey. Retrieved from: <https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/youth-and-tobacco/youth-tobacco-use-results-national-youth-tobacco-survey>

The Impact of E-Cigarettes on the Lung. American Lung Association. Retrieved from: <https://www.lung.org/stop-smoking/smoking-facts/impact-of-e-cigarettes-on-lung.html>