



**National Association of
Pediatric Nurse PractitionersSM**
MD: CHESAPEAKE

Support of SB273

January 21, 2021

Maryland Senate
Finance Committee Members
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

On behalf of the pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs) and fellow pediatric focused advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Chesapeake Chapter, I am writing to express our support of SB273 'Electronic Smoking Device Regulation Act of 2021'.

The Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP believe this piece of legislation will play a vital role in protecting youth from the toxic smoke/vapors expressed from electronic smoking devices. These vapors are harmful to developing lungs. Smoking devices can be used to smoke or 'vape' marijuana, herbs, waxes, and oils exposing not only the smoker but bystanders to harmful chemicals. These devices are manufactured to deliver high concentrations to the lungs and the brain (Dr. Volkow, MD, Director of National Institute of Drug Abuse at NIH). Most devices contain nicotine, which has known health affects including being highly addictive, toxic to developing fetuses, and a danger to pregnant women. Nicotine can accumulate to toxic levels in children through alternative and accidental exposures such as swallowing or absorption through skin and eyes. Besides nicotine, electronic smoking devices' aerosols can contain substances that harm the body. These include but are not limited to:

- Ultrafine particles that can be inhaled deep into the lungs
- Flavoring such as diacetyl- a chemical linked to a serious lung disease
- Volatile organic compounds
- Cancer-causing chemicals
- Heavy metals such as nickel, tin, and lead

Artificial flavors are added to smoking devices to enhance the taste and take away from a normally bitter astringency. Research has shown that sweet-tasting flavors are particularly enticing to youth and young adults (FDA, 2019). Research also show that these flavorings can react to e-liquid or e-juice to trigger irritation and inflammation when inhaled (Duke University Medical Center, 2018).

Finally, electronic smoking devices can cause unintended injuries. Defective device batteries have caused fires and explosions, resulting in serious injuries.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support to SB273 'Electronic Smoking Device Regulation Act of 2021'.

The pediatric advanced practice nurses of your state are grateful to your for your attention to these crucial issues. The members of Chesapeake Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners are committed to improving the health and advocating for Maryland's children. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Deborah Busch, the Chesapeake Chapter president, at 410 614 6284.

Sincerely,

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