

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 844
BUSINESS REGULATION-CIGARETTE, OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCT,
AND ELECTRIC SMOKING DEVICE RETAILERS – NICOTINE
REPLACEMENT PRODUCTS
(MAKE QUITTING CONVENIENT ACT)

Parents Against Vaping e-cigarettes

POSITION: FAVORABLE

February 20, 2024

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 844.

Parents Against Vaping e-cigarettes (PAVe) strongly supports HB 844. PAVe is a grassroots community of passionate parents and concerned individuals committed to protecting children from the dangers of vaping and other flavored tobacco use. We promote policies at the local, state and federal levels that reduce tobacco use and end the sale of flavored tobacco products that are hooking millions of kids.

HB844 is balanced, common-sense legislation that would require stores that sell tobacco products to sell at least one smoking cessation product that is a proven Nicotine Replacement Therapy, designed to help people quit nicotine use.. Studies by the American Cancer Society and the Truth Initiative show using NRT can nearly double the chances of quitting smoking and increases quit rates from 50% to 70%. With over 90% of tobacco products sold at convenience stores, it only makes sense to make quitting more convenient by requiring these retailers to increase access to these potentially life-saving products.

According to the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco, nearly half of quitting attempts are spontaneous, meaning that a smoker tries to quit as soon as they make the decision to do so. Selling NRTs at convenience stores near where tobacco products are sold would help support this spontaneous decision to quit by treating acute nicotine cravings and reducing cigarette usage relapse.

For these reasons and in the interest of public health, I urge you to Make Quitting Convenient in Maryland and support House Bill 844.

Parents Against Vaping

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