



**Mission:** *To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy*  
**Vision:** *Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities*

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**House Bill 0238: Public Health - Clean Indoor Air Act - Revisions**  
**Hearing Date: 2/20/2024**  
**Committee: Economic Matters**  
**Position: Support**

Chairperson Wilson and members of Economic Matters Committee:

The Maryland Public Health Association would like to express support for House Bill 0283 - Public Health - Clean Indoor Air Act Revisions, sponsored by Delegates Wilson. This bill addresses the urgent need to tackle rampant vaping use in public spaces, posing a public health threat, by prohibiting vaping in certain indoor areas and certain mass transportation; and requiring that certain signs be posted and maintained in certain indoors areas open to the public and public entrances to indoor areas where smoking or vaping is prohibited under the Clean Indoor Air Act.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, with even brief exposure causing immediate reactions in some people. Further, even those who do not smoke are at increased risk of developing conditions such as heart disease, stroke, lung cancer and can even have adverse reproductive health effects. For children specifically, secondhand smoke is linked to respiratory infections, ear infections, and asthma attacks.<sup>1</sup> These health risks pose significant threat to vulnerable populations, such as those with pre-existing conditions, including asthma, health or lung diseases, likewise in children and the elderly. Eliminating smoking in indoor spaces is an efficient way of fully protect nonsmokers from exposure to secondhand smoke.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, smokefree policies can effectively provide protection from exposure to secondhand smoke.<sup>2</sup> Fortunately, states and communities can protect nonsmokers from secondhand smoke in all indoor public places and worksites, including all restaurants, bars, and casinos through long-term investments in comprehensive cancer and tobacco control programs.<sup>3</sup>

The use of e-cigarettes or vapes, referred to as vaping, has grown significantly in popularity in recent years and across many subpopulations, particularly amongst youth or those ages 17 and under. According to the FDA's 2023 Annual National Youth Tobacco Survey, about 2.8 million youth in the U.S. currently use tobacco products of any kind, including but not limited to vapes/e-cigarettes. It also found that e-cigarettes are the most used type of device for tobacco use, with 7.7% (the highest percentage of the

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, November 1). *Health problems caused by secondhand smoke*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/secondhand-smoke/health.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Ftobacco%2Fdata\\_statistics%2Ffact\\_sheets%2Fsecondhand-smoke%2Fhealth\\_effects%2Findex.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/secondhand-smoke/health.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Ftobacco%2Fdata_statistics%2Ffact_sheets%2Fsecondhand-smoke%2Fhealth_effects%2Findex.htm)

<sup>2</sup> State system smokefree indoor air fact sheet. (2024, January 18). <https://www.cdc.gov/statesystem/factsheets/sfia/SmokeFreeIndoorAir.html>

<sup>3</sup> CDC. (2019, August 27). *Cancer and tobacco use*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/cancerandtobacco/index.html>

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devices surveyed) of the youth surveyed reporting use of this device.<sup>4</sup> E-cigarettes contain both harmful ingredients such as ultrafine particles, flavorants such as diacetyl which have been linked to lung disease, volatile organic compounds, and heavy metals. All of which can cause significant harm to smokers, as well as non-smokers due to secondhand smoke.<sup>5</sup>

As a professional public health organization, we urge your support for this bill given the public health implications for those exposed to secondhand smoke in indoor spaces. It is imperative that we pass this legislation to decrease the public's exposure to secondhand smoke from vaping and other tobacco products in public indoor spaces, where members of the public are vulnerable to this health threat.

*The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) is a nonprofit, statewide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders through education, advocacy, and collaboration. We support public policies consistent with our vision of healthy Marylanders living in healthy, equitable, communities. MdPHA is the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association, a nearly 145-year-old professional organization dedicated to improving population health and reducing the health disparities that plague our state and our nation.*

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<sup>4</sup> U.S. FDA. (2023). Results from the Annual National Youth Tobacco Survey. U.S. FDA. <https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/youth-and-tobacco/results-annual-national-youth-tobacco-survey#:~:text=2023%20Findings%20on%20Youth%20Tobacco%20Use>

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Surgeon General. (2018). Know the Risks: E-cigarettes & Young People | U.S. Surgeon General's Report. Know the Risks: E-Cigarettes and Young People | U.S. Surgeon General's Report; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/default.htm>