



## Testimony by Parents Against Vaping In Support of HB 1180

House Economic Matters Committee  
February 20, 2024

My name is Shana Bedi and I am submitting written testimony on behalf of Parents Against Vaping (PAVe), a volunteer powered non-profit that advocates and educates across the country and here in Maryland to prioritize the health and safety of youth.

The easy access that young people have to tobacco products -- especially e-cigarettes — has resulted in a serious public health crisis. In Maryland, 14.7% of high schoolers use e-cigarettes compared to the US average of 10%. **Eliminating youth access to these deadly, addicting products is a critical step to reduce youth usage.**

We are in full support of the Tobacco Retail Modernization Act of 2024. Requiring tobacco and electronic smoking devices to be displayed behind a counter; proper ID checks; application fees for retailers; multiple annual unannounced inspections; creating an additional electronic smoking devices license; strengthening penalties for selling to minors; and prohibiting pharmacies from selling tobacco products, e-cigarettes, or other tobacco products are all **crucial** measures that will help protect the health of Maryland's kids now and for future generations.

On behalf of all the Maryland families affected by the youth vaping crisis, we thank you for your time.