



February 21, 2025

Testimony of Laura Hale

American Heart Association

Support HB 1241 Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and Honorable Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important legislation for heart health. My name is Laura Hale and I am the Director of Government Relations for the American Heart Association. The American Heart Association extends its support HB 1241 Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements including the technical amendments offered by the sponsor.

Strong retail licensure requirements are a proven way to prevent and limit youth use of tobacco products¹. Having the proper tools in the tool box is important for our retail licensure, one area that is in need of update is the seizure authority of these products. ATCC should be able to seize and dispose of all tobacco products and this legislation clarifies that authority for e-cigarettes.

In addition, this legislation continues to clarify needed licensure loopholes for e-cigarettes to place all manufacturers on an even playing field.

Places with stronger retail licensure requirements have lower rates of cigarette and e-cigarette use and initiation among both youth and young adults². This bill continues to strengthen the retail licensure requirements in the state in proven effective ways that are key for tobacco control and are good business practices for the state.

The American Heart Association urges a favorable report on this legislation.

¹ Astor, R.L., Urman, R., Barrington-Trimis, J.L., Berhane, K., Steinberg, J., Cousineau, M., Leventhal, A.M., Unger, J.B., Cruz, T., Pentz, M., Samet, J.M., & McConnell, R. (2019). Tobacco Retail Licensing and Youth Product Use. *Pediatrics*, 143 (2), Article e20173536. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2017-3536>

² Source: Astor, R.L., Urman, R., Barrington-Trimis, J.L., Berhane, K., Steinberg, J., Cousineau, M., Leventhal, A.M., Unger, J.B., Cruz, T., Pentz, M., Samet, J.M., & McConnell, R. (2019). Tobacco Retail Licensing and Youth Product Use. *Pediatrics*, 143 (2), Article e20173536. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2017-3536>