



# BALTIMORE FAMILY ALLIANCE

**1100 Wicomico Street, Suite 330 | Baltimore, Maryland 21230**

Delegate C.T. Wilson  
Economic Matters Committee, Chairman  
Lowe House Office Building, Room 231  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

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

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Wilson,

I am writing to you not only as a community leader and board chair of the Baltimore Family Alliance, a local Baltimore non-profit, but as a concerned member of the Baltimore community, to express my unequivocal support for HB 1241. I currently lead the local Baltimore non-profit, Baltimore Family Alliance, whose goal is to connect families within Baltimore city to build strong friendships and relationships to grow and thrive together in Baltimore. The organization provides free resources to help navigate family life in Baltimore. Healthy kids is an important matter to our organization, and as someone who is deeply invested in the well-being of our children and community, I believe this legislation is a crucial step in safeguarding the future health of our youth.

The need for this bill is clear. Despite the progress we've made in tobacco control, youth access to tobacco products—particularly e-cigarettes—remains a significant problem. Recent data shows that over 48,000 Maryland high school students report using tobacco products, a number likely far lower than the reality. Big Tobacco has turned to aggressive marketing strategies and introduced new products like flavored e-cigarettes that are deliberately designed to attract and addict the next generation of smokers.

The consequences of youth tobacco use are far-reaching and devastating. The public health and economic burdens on Maryland are staggering. We face approximately \$3.14 billion in annual healthcare costs related to smoking, with tobacco responsible for 27.5% of cancer-related deaths in the state. These figures should be a call to action for all of us, as we can no longer afford to allow the tobacco industry to undermine the health of our youth and our communities.

HB 1241 is an important step forward in addressing these issues. This legislation would grant the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission the same seizure powers over e-cigarettes that it already has for cigarettes, creating consistency in oversight across the tobacco market. Additionally, HB 1241 would require record-keeping for e-cigarette sales, bringing these products in line with regulations for traditional tobacco products. These measures are critical for ensuring that the same public health protections we have for cigarettes are extended to e-cigarettes, ultimately strengthening our efforts to protect Maryland's youth from harm.

I want to express my gratitude to the Chairman of this committee for his continued, historic support of legislation aimed at protecting our youth from tobacco, and to Delegate Amprey and Chairwoman Beidle for their leadership in sponsoring this important bill in the House and Senate.

The need for action is broadly recognized—recent polling shows that 81% of Maryland voters support taking stronger action against Big Tobacco to protect our children. By voting in favor of HB 1241, you will be taking a

stand for our future, continuing your strong track record of protecting children from the dangers of tobacco and e-cigarettes.

I strongly urge you to support this vital legislation and help create a healthier future for all Marylanders. Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your commitment to making a difference in the lives of our children.

Sincerely,



Joseph Di Seta  
Board Chair



**Joseph Di Seta**  
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