

Muslim Community Cultural Center of Baltimore

Our Community... Our Responsibility!

Senator Pam Beidle

Finance Committee, Chairman

3 East Miller Senate Office Building

11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 25, 2025

Re: Testimony on SB 0842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices- Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

Position: Favorable - Candice Willie supports SB0842/HB1241.

SB 0842/HB 1241 is legislation that aims to grant the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission the same seizure powers over e-cigarettes that it already has over other tobacco products like cigarettes, to standardize the Commission's oversight and enforcement authority across the tobacco market. The legislation also brings e-cigarettes in line with regulations for other tobacco products, notably by requiring record keeping for the sale of e-cigarettes. These steps are crucial for ensuring the same healthcare and public health strategies and enforcement that protect Maryland's youth from traditional tobacco products are also available for e-cigarettes. **I urge passage of a bill without amendments, free from the type of regulatory loopholes Big Tobacco has exploited for decades.**

Flavored e-cigarettes lure kids into a life-long struggle with deadly addiction, hooking them on products in flavors like minty menthol, glazed donut, gummy bear, and cotton candy.

I currently sit on the board of the Muslim Community Cultural Center of Baltimore. I am also a small business owner. Most importantly, I am a mother. As a muslim woman, I don't think people should use products that cause the type of harm and devastation that tobacco products cause; but, I understand that individuals have the free will to do as they choose. As a mother, I hope to teach my child about the dangers of all tobacco products and I hope that when my daughter goes out into the world she is not tempted by tobacco products with candy-like flavors. Our children are our world's most valuable asset and we should be promoting them to engage in positive things. We should not be distracting them with ill regulated e-cigarettes that can harm them and, through second-hand smoke, harm others. For decades, the tobacco industry has targeted Black and Brown communities with their predatory marketing and as they move into the promotion of new e-cigarette products, I do not want my daughter to be among their next target audience.

To protect the health and futures of Maryland's youth, we must continue to safeguard our children from tobacco which means including e-cigarettes in existing regulations. I Urge Maryland legislators to vote yes on SB 0842.

Sincerely,

Candice Willie

Candice Willie,

Mother, Business Owner, Woman of Faith

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