

Maryland Pediatric Cancer Research Commission

Friday, February 27, 2026

Re: Letter of Support for House Bill 1576 (“Sales and Use Tax – Electronic Smoking Devices and Vaping Liquid – Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund”)

Honorable Chair Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Vice Chair Delegate Jessica Feldmark, and Members of the Committee:

House Bill 1576 revises Health General §20–120 to increase the sales and use taxes on electronic smoking devices and vaping liquid. Electronic smoking and vaping products are well-documented health risks and a clear addictive pathway to cigarette smoking, especially in children and young adults. Based on the causative link between smoking and cancer, HB1576 directs the increased revenue from these additional taxes to the Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund.

The proposed increases in taxes on the sale of electronic smoking devices, from 20% to 30%, and vaping liquids, from 60% to 90%, will provide yearly support for Maryland’s pediatric cancer research, defined by Health General §20–120 as research conducted in the State of Maryland to develop and advance the understanding of pediatric cancer and the techniques and modalities effective in the prevention, cure, screening, and treatment of pediatric cancer. Pediatric cancer is the leading disease-related cause of death in children yet receives a disproportionately small share of cancer research funding. Many children with cancer still face limited treatment options, treatment-related impairments, and poor prognoses. Ensuring funding for the Pediatric Cancer Research Fund will accelerate discovery, support clinical trials, and shorten the timeline from scientific innovation to patient benefit.

We, the members of the Maryland Pediatric Cancer Research Commission, write in strong and unanimous support of House Bill 1576. Appointed by Governor Moore, the Commission is comprised of twelve pediatric cancer experts and individuals with a lived childhood cancer experience and is charged to advance childhood cancer research. We believe that dedicating these new tax revenues to pediatric cancer research aligns with Maryland’s public health priorities. HB1576 will demonstrate State of Maryland leadership across the United States yet is budget neutral.

The Maryland Pediatric Cancer Research Commission respectfully urges a favorable vote on House Bill 1576. We appreciate the Committee’s leadership on this critical issue and stand ready to serve as a resource as this budget neutral bill moves forward.

Respectfully submitted,

The Pediatric Cancer Research Commission



Curt I. Civin, MD, Co-Chair



Ruth Hoffman, Co-Chair