



House Ways and Means Committee

March 3, 2026

House Bill 1576 – *Sales and Use Tax – Electronic Smoking Devices and Vaping Liquid – Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund*

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) is a statewide association representing more than 1,100 pediatricians and allied pediatric and adolescent healthcare practitioners in the State and is a strong and established advocate promoting the health and safety of all the children we serve. On behalf of MDAAP, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1576.

This legislation increases the sales and use tax on electronic smoking devices and vaping liquids and directs the additional revenue to the Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund. House Bil 1576 addresses two public health issues, aiming to prevent youth nicotine addiction and strengthen support for pediatric cancer research.

Nicotine use during adolescence poses serious health risks. The adolescent brain continues to develop through the mid-twenties, and nicotine exposure during this critical period can disrupt brain development, impair attention and learning, and increase susceptibility to mood disorders, such as anxiety and depression. Nicotine is highly addictive, and early exposure significantly increases the likelihood of long-term dependence and future use of combustible tobacco products. Long term use of combustible nicotine products has been linked to many cancers, respiratory diseases, and other chronic health conditions. Preventing youth access to and use of nicotine products is critical to Maryland's public health.

These electronic smoking devices and vaping products continue to pose a serious threat to public health, with rampant use among child and adolescent populations. Raising the price of tobacco and nicotine products is an effective tool to help deter initial use in young people, restrict access, and raise awareness about the negative health consequences of nicotine products.

Simultaneously, dedicating the revenue from increased taxes to pediatric cancer research ensures that funds generated from products harmful to youth populations are reinvested in improving child health outcomes. Childhood cancer remains a leading cause of disease-related death among children, and sustained research funding is essential to improving survival and quality of life for pediatric cancer patients.

For these reasons, MDAAP requests a favorable report on House Bill 1576.

For more information call:

Christine K. Krone

J. Steven Wise

Danna L. Kauffman

Andrew G. Vetter

410-244-7000