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**Public Health Committee  
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**Comments from the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network on Proposed  
H.B. No. 5219 - 'An Act Prohibiting The Use Of Electronic Cigarettes In Schools**

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is pleased to provide comments on Proposed HB 5219, An Act Prohibiting The Use Of Electronic Cigarettes In Schools. ACS CAN is the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society that supports evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. ACS CAN advocates for comprehensive tobacco-free laws in all schools to protect students, faculty, staff, visitors and the public from the harmful effects of tobacco use and to create communities that support tobacco-free living.

Proposed HB 5219, as raised, would amend section 19a-342 to ban e cigarettes in school buildings. The intent of this bill is both appropriate and necessary, and we appreciate Rep. Carney for raising the bill.

Increasing evidence shows electronic cigarettes are a growing problem among youth. A 2013 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report (National Youth Tobacco Survey, reported in Sept 5, 2013 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report) shows that in the United States from 2011 to 2012—just one year—the percentage of youth (middle and high school students) using e-cigarettes more than doubled. Recent use of e-cigarettes among 6-12 year olds almost doubled in the same time period. Adults are also reporting greater use of e-cigarettes. CDC estimates that one in five adults have tried an e-cigarette, doubling from ten percent in 2010 to 21 percent in 2011.

Furthermore, more than 75% of the youth surveyed who used e-cigarettes also smoked conventional cigarettes.

The e-cigarette industry, is using the same marketing strategies that the cigarette and smokeless tobacco manufacturers have long used to attract youth including advertising on television and radio, sponsoring music and sports events, celebrity endorsements, and images of their products as cool, sexy, and rebellious. In response, youth are increasingly using these products.

Despite the dramatic rise in the use of e-cigarettes, very little is known about their actual health risks or their impact on youth tobacco use. ***No federal agency currently regulates how e-cigarettes are made or how and to whom they are marketed and sold.***

Effective regulation is absolutely essential to guard against potential health risks and prevent e-cigarettes from creating a new generation of youth tobacco users, increasing the overall number of people addicted to nicotine, convincing current tobacco users not to quit or re-glamorizing the act of smoking.

To that end, ACS CAN would support bill language that would meet the intent of the bill by accomplishing all of the following:

1. Appropriately define e-cigarettes:

“Tobacco product” means:

- (a) Any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, snuff, snus; and
- (b) Any electronic device that delivers nicotine or other substances to the person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to an electronic cigarette, vape pen, cigar, pipe, or hookah.
- (c) Notwithstanding any provision of subsections (a) and (b) to the contrary, “tobacco product” includes any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product, whether or not sold separately.

- 2. Include both adults as well as minors
- 3. Prohibition must be in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- 4. Include all school grounds, not just school buildings
- 5. Include Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade.
- 6. Must not be Pre-emptive

ACS CAN and other public health organizations have concerns that the widespread, unregulated use of e-cigarettes has the potential to result in smoking again becoming a socially acceptable behavior. We must protect the progress we’ve made in reducing smoking rates of youth and adults over the past 50 years, and ensure state laws related to e-cigarettes are contributing to a movement toward a “tobacco free generation”.

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