



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
of the American College of Surgeons
Professional Association, Inc.



Testimony on
Senate Bill 164 An Act Raising The Legal Age To Purchase Tobacco To Twenty One
House Bill 5293 An Act Concerning The Sale Of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems
And Vapor Products
Presented to the Public Health Committee
March 20, 2018

Senator Gerratana, Senator Somers, Representative Steinberg, and members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) and the CT Chapter of the American College of Surgeons CT ACS), thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony today in support of **Senate Bill 164 An Act Raising The Legal Age To Purchase Tobacco To Twenty One** and **House Bill 5293 An Act Concerning The Sale Of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems And Vapor Products**. Both proposals seek to increase the health of our citizens by decreasing access to tobacco and nicotine products by our youth.

The negative effects connected to the use of products containing nicotine are undeniable. We need not present any new studies or information demonstrating the number of lives these product claim annually nor the costs to our healthcare system and society. Senate Bill 164 and House Bill 5293 raise the legal age to purchase tobacco product to twenty-one years of age and require the face to face purchase of all vapor products or nicotine delivery systems respectively. The requirement for face to face sales of such products will prevent the use of false information by minors to purchase such products through online transactions. Increasing the age limit for purchase will lower access to these deadly products during a period in their development when the possibility of becoming addicted to nicotine products is greater.

Please support these proposed bills.