

American Academy of Pediatrics

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## Hezekiah Beardsley Connecticut Chapter

### 2022 Testimony Supporting Vaping Flavor Ban

I am Sandra Carbonari a retired primary care pediatrician and the current chair of the Connecticut Chapter of the Academy Of Pediatrics (CTAAP) Advocacy Committee. I am writing **in support of SB 367: An Act Concerning Electronic Nicotine Delivery and Vapor Products.**

Pediatricians have long been sounding the alarm on e-cigarettes and the harms they pose to children's health. These products are highly addictive and come in flavors that appeal to children. They are designed to quickly deliver high levels of nicotine to users.

Our serious concerns are backed up by the facts. E cigarettes began being marketed in the United States in 2007. Since 2014 they have been the most commonly used tobacco product by US youth. From 2017 to 2019, e-cigarette use more than doubled among high school students (from 11.7% to 27.5%) and tripled among middle school students (from 3.3% to 10.5%), according to the 2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey. In 2019 27% of high school students in Connecticut used e cigarettes and 1 in 20 middle school aged children used these devices.

Flavored e-cigarettes have driven the e-cigarette epidemic – 97% of youth e-cigarette users report using a flavored product in the past month and 70% cite flavors as a reason for their use. Among high school students who used flavored e-cigarettes, the most common flavors were fruit (73 percent), mint (56 percent), menthol (37 percent), and candy (36 percent). Among middle school students who used flavored e-cigarettes, the most common flavors were fruit (76 percent), candy (47 percent), mint (47 percent), and menthol (23 percent).

## Connecticut pediatricians support the American Academy of Pediatrics Policy on E-Cigarettes and Similar Devices:

E-cigarettes are the most common tobacco product used among youth. E-cigarettes are marketed and advertised by promoting flavors and using a wide variety of media channels and approaches previously used with success by the tobacco industry to market conventional tobacco products to youth. E-cigarette advertising has effectively reached youth and young adults and is associated with current e-cigarette use. Numerous toxicants and carcinogens have been found in e-cigarette solutions. Adolescents and young adults who use e-cigarettes are at high risk of transitioning to traditional cigarettes. The increasing use of e-cigarettes among youth threatens 5 decades of public health gains in successfully deglamorizing, restricting, and decreasing the use of tobacco products. To prevent children, adolescents, and young adults from transitioning from e-cigarettes to traditional cigarettes and to minimize the potential public health harm from e-cigarette use, there is a critical need for e-cigarette regulation, legislative action, and counterpromotion to help youth live tobacco-free lives.

The CTAAP is urging bold action to keep these products out of the hands of children, including:

- Prohibiting all flavored tobacco products, including menthol and mint
- Advertising of e-cigarettes in the media, on the Internet, and in point of sale locations that can be viewed by youth, should be banned.

Pediatricians urge you to vote in favor of this bill.