



February 21, 2020

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

We are writing to express support for H.R. 4742, a bill introduced by Representatives Tom Suozzi (D-NY) and Peter King (R-NY) and passed by the Ways and Means Committee, which would impose a tax on nicotine used in e-cigarettes. Tobacco taxes have proven to be a highly effective way to reduce use of other tobacco products, and creating a federal e-cigarette tax is an appropriate response to widespread youth use of e-cigarettes.

Higher taxes are a particularly effective way to reduce tobacco use among children. Youth are more sensitive to changes in price than adults. Decades of studies and Surgeon General reports show that significantly increasing the prices of tobacco products, including through taxes, can reduce and prevent youth use of tobacco products. While this area of study is still new for e-cigarettes, particularly since few states tax e-cigarettes at sufficient rates, preliminary data show that youth e-cigarette use can be reduced by higher e-cigarette prices. The 2016 Surgeon General’s Report on *E-Cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults* and the recent Surgeon General’s Advisory both recommended pricing policies to reduce e-cigarette use among youth.

Establishing a federal tax on the nicotine in e-cigarettes is an important part of a comprehensive strategy needed to address rapidly increasing rates of e-cigarette use by youth. Two recent national surveys show that youth use of electronic cigarettes has skyrocketed in the United States, reaching what the FDA Commissioner and the U.S. Surgeon General have called “epidemic” levels. The 2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS) showed that, among high school students, e-cigarette use increased by 135 percent from 2017 to 2019, from 11.7% to 27.5%. In 2019, 5 million middle and high school students were e-cigarette users – an alarming increase of nearly 3 million students in just two years. Similarly, the 2019 Monitoring the Future survey showed that 25.4% of 12th graders report vaping nicotine in the past 30 days, compared to 11% in 2017. Additionally, the survey found that 1 in 9 of all high school seniors report that they vaped nicotine nearly daily, a strong indication of addiction.

E-cigarettes are the most popular tobacco product among youth, yet they are the only tobacco product not taxed at the federal level. H.R. 4742 appropriately updates federal tobacco taxes to apply a tax to e-cigarettes. We urge the House to levy a tax on e-cigarettes that is equivalent to cigarettes and use some of the funds raised by the new tax to help prevent young people from ever using e-cigarettes and to help those already addicted to quit.

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network
American Academy of Nursing
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Respiratory Care
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College Health Association
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Federations of School Administrators
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Medical Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Addiction Medicine
American Thoracic Society
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Cancer Prevention and Treatment Fund
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Children’s Defense Fund
ClearWay Minnesota

Common Sense Media
Eta Sigma Gamma – National Health Education Honorary
First Focus Campaign for Children
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer
HealthCorps
International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer
LUNgevity Foundation
March of Dimes
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of Social Workers
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Medical Association
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National PTA
Oncology Nursing Society
Parents Against Vaping e-cigarettes (PAVe)
Respiratory Health Association
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions
Society for Public Health Education
Students Against Destructive Decisions
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons