



May 1, 2014

Memo: House Human Services Committee

Re: RJ Reynolds request for exemption for e-liquid nicotine child-resistant packaging

On behalf of the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Vermont, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association and the American Cancer Society, we have reviewed the proposed exemption language offered by the lobbyist for RJ Reynolds. We do not believe an exemption is necessary for liquid nicotine cartridges that are “not intended to be opened by a consumer.”

If these liquid nicotine cartridges are not able to be opened by the consumer, then they should satisfy the requirement passed in the underlying bill, H.217, which would require them to be child resistant. The language in the bill does not require labeling or any onerous conditions, it only requires that the container cannot be opened by a child under five years old. Certainly if the cartridges manufactured by RJ Reynolds cannot be opened by general consumers, they most likely can not be opened by children under 5.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, calls to the U.S poison control centers related to electronic cigarettes has increased dramatically from 1 in September 2010 to 215 in February 2014 and more than half the calls involved children under five. At the very minimum, Vermont should require tamper-proof, child-resistant packaging and not create exemptions. This is the right step for Vermont.

Thank you very much,

Ashwinee Kulkarni

Contact: Ashwinee Kulkarni, Coalition Coordinator
Ashwinee.Kulkarni@cancer.org
Phone: (802) 872-6350