

From: Jill Sudhoff-Guerin

Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 8:58 AM

To: Chrissy Gilhuly (CGilhuly@leg.state.vt.us) <CGilhuly@leg.state.vt.us>; Tina Zuk (tina.zuk@heart.org) <tina.zuk@heart.org>; 'rryan@lungne.org' <rryan@lungne.org>; John Shullenberger (jdsdiann@together.net) <jdsdiann@together.net>

Cc: 'bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us' <bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us>; 'vlyons@leg.state.vt.us' <vlyons@leg.state.vt.us>; 'rmccormack@leg.state.vt.us' <rmccormack@leg.state.vt.us>; 'apollina@leg.state.vt.us' <apollina@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: Please support E-cigarettes to protect Vermont youth from nicotine addiction

On behalf of the Coalition of Tobacco Free Vermont, which includes the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association and the thousands of volunteers we have throughout the entire state, we ask you to please support H.171.

Your committee has an important opportunity to positively impact public health. The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Vermont urges you to support H.171 to maintain the tradition of Vermont's strong Clean Indoor Air laws and to protect kids from the dangers of e-cigarettes.

There are indisputable facts about e-cigarettes. These include that use of these unregulated products by youth is growing tremendously and can have a significant impact.

- Nicotine is highly addictive and can impact a child's developing brain.
- National statistics from the CDC show teen e-cigarette use has tripled in a single year, and almost 2.5 million middle and high school students used them in the past month.
- New research, including studies published in the Journal of the American Medical Association and studies conducted at Dartmouth, has found that e-cigarette use in middle and high school students has led to youth moving on to smoke conventional cigarettes.
- Vermont's Youth Risk Behavior Survey shows 30% of our high school students have already tried e-cigarettes and 15% use them regularly.

Part of the reason for this interest is that e-cigarettes often look like traditional cigarettes. **H.171 can prevent the re-glamorization of smoking by preventing e-cigarettes from being used in areas already protected by Vermont's Clean Indoor Air laws.**

This legislation will also protect Vermonters from being exposed to the aerosols emitted from e-cigarettes in public and workplaces. These emissions are not harmless water vapor.

- Studies show e-cigarette aerosol may contain nicotine, heavy metals, and ultrafine particles, lung irritants, and potential cancer-causing substances: formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, acrolein, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.
- Recent reviews highlight that what we don't know about e-cigarettes may hurt us.
- In 2015, the New England Journal of Medicine reported the "Hidden formaldehyde in e-cigarette aerosols." Propylene glycol (used to create the vapor in "vaping") when heated, produced formaldehyde-releasing agents.

Our coalition strongly supports smoking cessation, but this is not what H.171 is about.

- E-cigarettes are *not* FDA-approved quit smoking aids.
- According to the 2014 Vermont Adult Tobacco Survey, approximately 77% adult e-cigarette users continue to smoke cigarettes, something called “dual use.”
- Vermont’s 802Quits offers free, FDA-approved quit smoking therapy to smokers who want to quit in the form of patches, gum and lozenges. Medicaid also provides a generous quit-smoking benefits including counseling.

H.171 takes steps to protect the health of Vermonters. It will reduce exposure to second-hand e-cigarette aerosol, helps keep highly-addictive nicotine-laden products out of our children’s hands and preserve our current social norm that promotes not smoking in public places, schools, and workplaces. It deserves your support.

Please reach out to Jill, contact info below, Tina Zuk (tina.zuk@heart.org) or Rebecca Ryan (rryan@lungne.org) if you have any questions.

Thank you!
Jill

Jill Sudhoff-Guerin | Vermont Government Relations Director
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc.
55 Day Ln
Williston, VT 05495
Phone: 802.872.6312 | Mobile: 802.279.9440

acscan.org



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