



**March of Dimes Foundation**

**NE Region**

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March 23, 2016

Dear Members of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee:

The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of women of childbearing age, infants and children by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. One of the most important ways we can do this is by ensuring that women are healthy before they become pregnant. Healthy women are much more likely to have healthy babies.

E-cigarette use is increasing in women of childbearing age. No amount of nicotine has been proven safe in pregnancy. While some women may use e-cigarettes in pregnancy because they believe these are safer for their babies than traditional tobacco products, more research is needed to better understand the effects of e-cigarettes on women and their children during pregnancy. There has also been a rise in e-cigarette use in the teenage population, meaning that the reproductive health and future birth outcomes of these youth may be impacted.

The March of Dimes believes that e-cigarettes should be subject to the same laws and regulations as cigarettes and other tobacco products. Since the FDA has not yet released a requirement for the regulation of e-cigarettes, we urge lawmakers to ensure that they are regulated in our state. Restricting youth access to e-cigarettes is imperative to protecting the future reproductive health of youth in Vermont. Additionally, women of childbearing age should be educated about the potential risks to their unborn infants from use of e-cigarettes. Please support H. 171 which relates to restrictions on the use of e-cigarettes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Abigail Rogers".

Abigail Rogers  
Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs  
The March of Dimes  
New England Chapter

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