



Vermont Center on
Behavior & Health
University of Vermont

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February 10, 2021

Senator Virginia “Ginny” Lyons
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
241 White Birch Lane
Williston, VT 05495

RE: S. 24 An act relating to banning flavored tobacco products and e-liquids

Dear Senator Lyons:

We are writing to you in our roles as UVM tobacco researchers. We have a National Institutes of Health/Food and Drug Administration supported [Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science](#) (TCORS) here at UVM that involves us conducting controlled studies on the effects of flavored e-cigarettes and other tobacco products on combusted cigarette smoking. These studies often involve us providing research participants with these products to use outside the laboratory. In fact, since COVID-19, nearly all of our tobacco studies have moved to remote protocols.

While we are confident that the Vermont Legislature and Department of Health does not intend to disrupt this or similar research, we are concerned that S. 24 might inadvertently constrain the ability to research flavored tobacco products. We are writing to bring this potential unintended consequence of S. 24 to your attention and encourage you to support protection of research on flavored tobacco products from the restrictions included in this important new legislation.

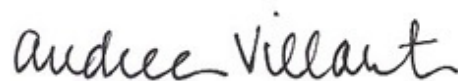
We would be pleased to discuss our research or this matter further at your convenience.

Thank you for your attention to this most important issue.

Sincerely,



Stephen T. Higgins, PhD
Director, Vermont Center on Behavior and Health
Virginia H. Donaldson Professor of Translational Science
Departments of Psychiatry and Psychological Science



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