



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 12<sup>th</sup> 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