



November 26, 2019

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We want to thank you for meeting with us on Friday.

Every physician organization, public health organization and parent organization at the meeting was unified and agreed that:

- We are facing an unprecedented epidemic of addiction of our youth to e-cigarettes;
- This epidemic has been fueled by the presence of flavored e-cigarettes that attract our youth and that contain levels of nicotine that are causing millions of our children to become seriously addicted and suffer from the consequences of that addiction;
- Unless we take strong action to prevent more of our youth from becoming addicted to these products, the impact of this addiction will plague our nation for decades to come.

During the meeting, you asked each of us what we would do. Every physician group, public health group and parent group that was present agreed. As you proposed on September 11, we all believe it is essential to clear the market of all flavored e-cigarettes, including mint and menthol, if we are going to reverse the youth e-cigarette epidemic.

Mr. President, we want to make one other critical point. During the meeting, the industry tried to create the impression that you should not support a policy that removes flavored e-cigarettes. We disagree. Each of us has concluded that the benefits of removing flavored e-cigarettes are enormous and that such a policy will not create major problems.

The industry conflated two issues: the cause of the recent serious lung issues and the extraordinary epidemic of use of e-cigarettes by our nation's youth. Whatever the ultimate determination of the cause of the serious lung disease that has received so much attention, the products that have led 5.3 million children to become current e-cigarette users and many of them to become seriously addicted are sold through established retailers and are manufactured by known firms. The epidemic is not the result of black market or counterfeit products.

The major impact of eliminating flavored e-cigarettes will be to prevent millions of children not yet addicted to nicotine from ever becoming addicted to these products. They will not turn to other products; they will continue to lead the type of healthy lives they were leading before the introduction of flavored e-cigarettes. In addition, the FDA has the tools and the enforcement resources to limit the scope of any counterfeit market. The response to any potential increase in illicit products is to enforce the law, not to give in to the lawbreakers.

Removing flavored e-cigarettes will protect our children from the most serious addiction epidemic we have faced in decades. Your action can prevent that from taking place.

Sincerely,



Gary L. LeRoy, MD, FAAFP
President
American Academy of Family Physicians



Sara H. Goza, MD, FAAP
President-Elect
American Academy of Pediatrics



Gary M. Reedy
Chief Executive Officer
American Cancer Society and American Cancer
Society Cancer Action Network



Nancy A. Brown
Chief Executive Officer
American Heart Association
(Invited but unable to attend)



Harold P. Wimmer
National President and CEO
American Lung Association



Patrice A. Harris, MD, MA
President
American Medical Association



Matthew L. Myers
President
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids



Meredith Berkman
Co-Founder
Parents Against Vaping e-cigarettes (PAVe)



Robin Koval
CEO and President
Truth Initiative