



October 22, 2019

To: Rep. Michael Webber, Chair
House Regulatory Reform Committee
From: Amy Zaagman, MCMCH Executive Director
Re: Opposition to HB 5019

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Beaumont Children's Hospital
Children's Hospital of
Michigan/Detroit Medical Center
Henry Ford Health System
Hurley Medical Center
University of Michigan C.S. Mott
Children's Hospital and Von
Voigtlander Women's Hospital

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Michigan Section, American
Congress of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists
Mott Children's Health Center

PARTNERING MEMBERS

Calhoun County Public Health
Department
Health Department of Northwest
Michigan
Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan
Michigan Association for Infant
Mental Health
Michigan School Health
Coordinators' Association
Michigan State Medical Society
School-Community Health
Alliance of Michigan
Washtenaw County Public
Health

GENERAL MEMBERS

Maternal-Newborn Nurse
Professionals of Southeastern
Michigan
Michigan Association of School
Nurses
Michigan Section, Association of
Women's Health, Obstetric and
Neonatal Nurses
Michigan Chapter, National
Association of Pediatric
Nurse Practitioners

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Amy Zaagman
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The purpose of the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health is to advocate for public policy that will improve maternal and child health outcomes through prevention programs, access to care and adequate funding.

We fully support the state's emergency rules prohibiting the sale of flavored nicotine vaping devices. We agree with the Chief Medical Executive's finding of emergency and urge members of this committee to oppose House Bill 5019 that, if enacted, would remove the Department of Health and Human Services' ability to promulgate rules to ban or regulate vapor products. Members of MCMCH—including hospitals, local public health departments and school-based health organizations—all see the rapid increase in vaping among our youth and recognize the harmful effects of vaping on our children.

Vapor products are intended to deliver nicotine. Nicotine is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development, which continues into the early to mid-20s. Using nicotine in adolescence can also increase risk for future addiction to other substances. In addition to nicotine, the aerosol that users inhale and exhale from e-cigarettes can potentially expose the user and bystanders to other harmful substances, including heavy metals, volatile organic compounds, and ultrafine particles that can be inhaled deeply into the lungs.

Much has been said about the use of e-cigarettes as a cessation device for smoking cigarettes. One population vulnerable to these messages have been pregnant women who are strongly counseled and often motivated to quit smoking because they are concerned about potential harm to their baby. Vaping by pregnant women poses the same risks as smoking tobacco to her baby including low birth weight, lung and brain damage. We have no research yet on how the additional components of e-cigarettes, such as the flavors or other additives like vitamin E, impact the developing child. Babies born into homes where vaping occurs are more likely to suffer respiratory illnesses and are at higher risk of sleep-related death.

Section 2226 of the state's Public Health Code currently details how the state proactively works to protect public health. Adding the language proposed by HB 5019 would not support that intent. As introduced the bill would remove the ability of the state agency designated to protect public health from being able to do so in the name of protecting the delivery of a substance proven to cause disease and cause death.

Sources and additional info available at: <https://www.acog.org/-/media/Departments/Tobacco-Alcohol-and-Substance-Abuse/5AsENDSfactsheet.pdf?dmc=1&ts=20180606T2026168501>