



Michigan

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June 23, 2020

The Honorable Michael Webber
House Regulatory Reform Committee, Chair
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Chairman Webber,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our feedback regarding the legislation under consideration in your committee today, Senate Bills 781 thru 786. While we applaud your recognition of the harm of e-cigarettes, The Michigan Chapter of the American College of Cardiology (MCACC) opposes this bill package, as written, because it does not adequately protect the public including our youth.

We support the proposed changes set forth by the Keep Michigan Kids Tobacco Free Alliance and our partners at American Heart Association, American Lung Association and Cancer Action Network. We encourage the members of the committee to continue to work with health care stakeholders to shape legislation that best serves Michigan youth.

Research released in March 2019 showed that adults who report use of e-cigarettes are significantly more likely to have a heart attack, coronary artery disease and depression compared with those who don't use them or any tobacco products. The study found that compared with nonusers, e-cigarette users were 56 percent more likely to have a heart attack and 30 percent more likely to suffer a stroke. The study's lead author stated, "Until now, little has been known about cardiovascular events relative to e-cigarette use. These data are a real wake-up call and should prompt more action and awareness about the dangers of e-cigarettes."

A paper published in June 2019 in the Journal of the American Heart Association concludes, "Some-day and every-day e-cigarette use are associated with increased risk of having a myocardial infarction [or heart attack], adjusted for combustible cigarette smoking." The authors found that the effects of e-cigarettes were similar to a conventional cigarette, and that dual use was riskier than using either product alone.

Recently published research found that in a small group of healthy young adults who did not smoke or vape, vaping one nicotine-free e-cigarette produced transient changes in blood vessels similar to those seen in early atherosclerosis.

While there is still much we don't know about the health effects of e-cigarette use, what we do know, including lessons learned from the combustible cigarette debate, should compel us to implement strong, sound policies, as we have done with tobacco products. To that end, we advocate for electronic cigarettes to be defined as a tobacco product for individuals 21 and older, consistent with the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Food and Drug Administration. This approach ensures we are putting in place a comprehensive approach to help keep these devices out of the hands of our youth.

Additionally, we need to provide for further protections of our youth by requiring a strong retail licensure process that includes compliance and accountability measures for the retailer if these products are made available to individuals under 21 years of age.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments. We look forward to working with you on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

David Wohns, MD, FACC
President

Peter Fattal, MD, FACC
Chair, Advocacy

**Akshay Khandelwal, MD,
FACC**
Immediate Past President

The MCACC is the voice of cardiology in Michigan representing more than 1250 cardiovascular specialists including cardiologists, advanced practice nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants, and other clinicians in the care team.