



Michigan Osteopathic Association

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House Committee on Oversight

FROM: Kris Nicholoff, Director

DATE: September 12, 2019

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is currently investigating six cases of lung infections that are related to the use of e-cigarettes/vaping. The Michigan Osteopathic Association opposes tobacco use among all segments of the public, but the rise of use in vaping is a threat to public health, particularly to younger users.

Vaping-related illnesses have afflicted more than 450 patients and have been linked to six fatalities nationwide. The American Osteopathic Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and a host of other organizations are speaking out against the products and have urged residents not to use e-cigarette products in light of this health emergency. President Donald Trump has announced that his administration is planning a federal ban on non-tobacco flavored vaping products.

Manufacturers of vaping/e-cigarette nicotine delivery devices are targeting children and young adults with flavors like “jelly bean,” “bubble gum,” and “Lucky Charms,” that mask the tobacco flavor and present their own health issues with chemicals that have been approved by the FDA as a food additive, but can cause harm when heated and inhaled. The devices themselves are designed to be covert, disguised as flash drives, watches, pens and other common items that make it extremely difficult for parents to recognize as a nicotine product.

The Michigan Osteopathic Association strongly supports Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s recognition of e-cigarettes/vaping devices and contents as a public health emergency. We consider the actions she has taken as a great first step. The vaping industry continues to use their influence to fight for market share, particularly among teens and young adults. We call on our Michigan Legislature to pass comprehensive laws that can help stop the spread of these devices and the diseases they can cause, especially among the most vulnerable segment of our population— our children.

Sincerely,

Kris T. Nicholoff, Executive Director
Michigan Osteopathic Association