



September 12, 2019

To: Rep. Matt Hall, Chair  
House Oversight Committee

From: Amy Zaagman, MCMCH Executive Director

**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**

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Protection of Youth From Nicotine Product Addiction Emergency Rules

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 Governor's directive to the Department of Health and Human Services to issue emergency rules prohibiting the sale of flavored nicotine vaping devices. We agree with the Chief Medical Executive's finding of emergency and urge MDHHS to issue the rules as soon as possible to protect the public. 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.

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.

Lastly I'd like to add a comment as a mother—and a daughter. Today is my dad's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday except he isn't here to celebrate. He died at age 54 after battling cancer for over four years—cancer caused by smoking and a nicotine addiction he developed at a young age but could never overcome. I'm the mother of two girls. One is 14 years old and she tells me that vaping is common, how easy it is for students to hide it from adults and how they like the flavors and the way it makes them feel. My daughter never met her grandfather but I hope our state, and our nation, move quickly to ban these devices so she and more of her generation have the opportunity to know their grandchildren.

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