



Dear Representatives Rankin, Will, Donovan, Roberts, and McCluskie and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

I am writing to express my support, on behalf of the Roaring Fork Schools, for HB19-1033. This bill will allow local governments to regulate nicotine products, including empowering local communities to limit the availability of nicotine products.

You may know that there has been a dramatic increase in youth vaping in Colorado and across the country, which has created new challenges for schools and communities alike. Colorado youth are vaping nicotine at twice the national average (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Specific to our district, 53% of high school students in the Roaring Fork Schools reported that they have tried vaping nicotine, and 37% reported that they have vaped nicotine in the past 30 days--up from 21% in 2015 (2017 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey data).

Nicotine is harmful to youth--studies show documented negative effects on adolescent brain development and the ability to cause lasting cognitive and behavioral impairment--and is present in the majority of vaping products. Risa Turetsky, Pitkin County Public Health's Tobacco Specialist, notes that "the amount of nicotine in one Juul 'pod' or cartridge--the main vape device used by youth--has the same amount of nicotine as a pack of cigarettes." Despite these harmful health effects, a majority of student survey respondents find vaping products relatively easy to get, even though they are illegal to purchase as minors.

To address these concerns, the Roaring Fork Schools have teamed up with Pitkin, Eagle, and Garfield counties' public health departments, law enforcement, and elected representatives to develop a comprehensive response to vaping. In addition to raising awareness about the harmful effects of vaping with the task force, the district has worked to ensure our early intervention is instructive by expanding our preventative curriculum and educating teachers on how to respond in ways that social norm against vaping. However, we know that these efforts alone are not enough. We need regulatory change to reduce the availability of nicotine products. The passing of HB19-1033 will allow the communities in which our schools are located the authority to regulate these products to reduce youth initiation and access.

The Roaring Fork School District implores our legislators to pass HB 19-1033 and allow local control of nicotine sales based on the needs and desires of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Stein". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rob Stein
Superintendent, Roaring Fork Schools
970.384.6002
rstein@rfschools.com

To: Members of the State Legislature

RE: Vaping Epidemic in Colorado

From: Caroline Szuch and Adele Primorac founders of C.L.E.A.N (Community Led Effort Against Nicotine)

Thank you for taking the time to address what our FDA chief, Scott Gottlieb, calls "the epidemic our youth are facing". I'm sure you are aware of Colorado's recent stats showing that the state of Colorado has nearly double the youth vaping rate.

We are mothers of high school children. We started to realize that "Juuling" was bigger than we could possibly imagine when we started to see our kid's friends fall down the rabbit hole of addiction. Because nicotine is the most highly addictive substance on the planet (Surgeon General 1988) and because of the anatomy of a youth's brain (Pre- frontal cortex not being developed) they are highly susceptible to "instant addiction". It doesn't help that the Juul Industry (valued at 38 billion) basically designs products to be undetectable from adults. Cleverly, starting with the standard "Thumb drive" Juul in 2015. Then on to Sharpies, Lipsticks and even graduating to Albuterol Inhalers (Asthma Rescue Devices). We would also like the State Assembly to be aware that we are dealing with Big Tobacco. Vaping/Juuling is "Big Tobacco" rebranded. Altria (formerly R.J. Reynolds just purchased a 35% stake in Juul (\$12. 8 Billion) A typical kid Juuls a pod a day. This is the equivalent of one pack of cigarettes.

We started CLEAN (Community Led Effort Against Nicotine) in an effort to try to educate parents and kids. We work closely with the mountain schools and have presented to hundreds of our mountain kids. We as a community feel strongly about youth protection and passing any form of legislation in regards to regulation.

Thanks for taking this seriously. Our children thank you too.

Caroline Szuch and Adele Primorac



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February 13, 2019

**Health & Human Services Senate Committee
Colorado General Assembly**

SENT VIA E-Mail: elizabeth.haskell@state.co.us

RE: Letter of Support for House Bill 19-1033

Dear Madame Chair Fields and Committee members:

The Avon Town Council urges the Senate Health & Human Services Committee to approve House Bill 19-1033. The current epidemic of vaping among Colorado youth has drawn our Town Council's attention to the harmful and addictive effects of tobacco use. Last summer, the Avon Town Council received detailed accounts from local students on the rapid growth and prevalence of nicotine vaping use in the Eagle County high schools. Due to the compact size and ease of use, vaping has become commonplace by minor students on high school properties through the school day. The alarming rise in vaping among youth is undoing the progress that has been made over the last decade in reducing youth tobacco use. Recent studies have shown vaping is not a harmless alternative to smoking and we now know that vaping greatly increases the likelihood of youth smoking cigarettes. We also know that nicotine primes the young brain for other drug use. The rapid growth in vaping has been recognized as a national epidemic that warrants immediate attention during this legislative session.

In response to the epidemic, the Avon Town Council unanimously passed Ordinance No. 18-08 last August to prohibit the sale of any tobacco or nicotine product to anyone under the age of 21 and to establish a licensing and enforcement program for all tobacco and nicotine product retailers. The residents of Avon have also shown concern about the harmful effects of tobacco and nicotine by overwhelmingly passing a tobacco tax at the November 6, 2018 election. Ballot Issue 2B passed with an affirmative vote of 74.46% enacting a \$3 per pack of cigarettes excise tax and a 40% sales tax on other tobacco and nicotine products.

Despite Avon's leadership to reduce youth access to all types of tobacco products in Avon, our regulations will not be effective so long as area youth may easily purchase tobacco and nicotine products immediately outside of Avon's incorporated limits in our neighboring unincorporated communities of Eagle-Vail and Edwards. House Bill 19-1033 has provided us with hope that Eagle County and all other counties within the state of Colorado may soon have the authority to impose regulations on the sale of tobacco products, including prohibiting sales to a person under 21 years of age.

The Avon Town Council is committed to providing a safe and healthy community our our youth. We applaud the sponsors of HB 19-1033 and strongly urge you to approve HB 19-1033. Please feel welcome to contact Scott Prince, Avon Town Council member, sprince@avon.org, (970)471-9235, or Preston Neill, Acting Town Manager, pneill@avon.org, (970)748-4404 (who implemented our new tobacco regulations this fall) with any questions you may have about our tobacco retail licensing program.

Sincerely,



Mayor Sarah Smith Hymes
Town of Avon

Cc: Representative Kerry Tipper
Representative Chris Kennedy
Senator Rhonda Fields
Senator Kevin Priola
Representative Dylan Roberts
Senator Kerry Donovan
Eagle County Commissioner Jeanne McQueeney
Eagle County Commissioner Jill Ryan
Eagle County Commissioner Kathy Chandler-Henry



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Serving Crowley & Otero Counties

Executive Director
Richard Ritter

Program Directors
Aaron Olivieri, Training
Susan Workman, Nursing
Jo Jancar, WIC
John Miller, Business
Dr. Janell Maier, Epidemiology
Michael Mustain, Tobacco Control
Su Korbitz, Environmental
Cassandra Rogers, Regional Health Connector
Kristin Carpenter, Communities That Care

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Ordway Office
603 Main, Courthouse Annex
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Monday, January 28, 2019


Regarding: Support of HB19-1033


We, the undersigned, respectfully and unhesitatingly submit our strong, clear, and resolute support of HB19-1033. We are firm proponents of ensuring equitable local control that would help protect our young people from cigarettes, tobacco, and nicotine products. We would urge our state legislators to give us the tools, through the passage of HB19-1033, to enable us to take meaningful local action to further protect the young people of southeast, rural Colorado.

Respectfully submitted,


Robe Allumbaugh, Chair
Crowley Board of County Commissioners


Keith Goodwin, Chair
Otero Board of County Commissioners


Dr. Paul Yoder, President
Board of Health


Richard Ritter, Executive Director
Otero County Health Department



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angelo Griego".

Angelo Griego, Chief
City of Rocky Ford Police Department