

Senate Local Government & Housing

02/08/2024 Upon Adjournment

SB24-022 Regulate Flavored Tobacco Products

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
RAYMOND SANDHU Against 7-11 inc	We dnt support this bill and would like to be able to sell vapes and flavored products. It should not be banned !
Ngawang Lekden Against themselves	Small business owner. Feeds my family. Banning flavored vaping will hurt me and my family.



February 8, 2024

Dear Chair Exum and Members of the Local Government & Housing Committee,

On behalf of Children's Hospital Colorado, the patients and families, and communities we serve, I am writing to respectfully ask for your vote in support of **SB24-022 Regulate Flavored Tobacco Products** that will ensure a board of county commissioners has the explicit authority to regulate tobacco and other nicotine products.

We believe this authority for county commissioners will positively impact the health, well-being, and quality of life for youth across Colorado as it will provide one more tool to protect young people from initiating smoking and vaping, which often starts with flavored tobacco and nicotine products.

Flavored tobacco products continue to play a substantial role in attracting youth to start using tobacco and nicotine products. Flavors disguise the taste and the harshness of tobacco, making them more appealing and easier for beginners to try. According to the National Youth Tobacco Survey, in 2023, 90.3% of high school students and 87.1% of middle school students who used e-cigarettes in the past 30 days reported using a flavored e-cigarette during that time. For youth who report using e-cigarettes, nearly 85% use a flavored product. Kid-friendly and common flavors like mint and strawberry can create the false impression that a tobacco product is less harmful than it really is. Flavored e-cigarettes contain nicotine, the highly addictive chemical that makes it easy to get hooked on tobacco and difficult to quit.

Highly addictive nicotine has damaging effects on kids' health, including harming the development of parts of the brain that control attention, learning, mood and impulse control. E-cigarettes contain a disturbing amount nicotine and chemicals, some that can cause cancer, and oils – all of which are bad for kids and their lungs. This is why it's so critically important for decision makers at all level of governments to have tools available to them to protect youth from initiating and using tobacco and nicotine products.

Thank you for your continued support of the health and wellbeing of Colorado kids. In this effort I encourage you to vote in favor of SB24-022 to provide boards of county commissioners with the explicit authority to regulate tobacco and nicotine products.

Sincerely,

Ellen Stern
Director of Government Affairs
Children's Hospital Colorado

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Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine

A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine

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February 8, 2024

The Honorable Tony Exum
Chair
Senate Committee on Local Government & Housing
200 E Colfax Avenue, SCR 352
Denver, CO 80203

Re: COSAM's Support for SB24-022, Bill to Regulate Flavored Tobacco Products

Dear Senator Exum:

On behalf of the Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine (COSAM), the medical specialty society representing physicians and clinicians in Colorado specializing in the prevention and treatment of addiction, we write today in support of SB24-022. This important legislation would allow county commissioners enhanced authority to regulate nicotine and tobacco products. Specifically, SB24-022 would allow county officials to prohibit the distribution of flavored nicotine and tobacco products, aligning with recommendations from the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)'s policy statement on e-cigarettes.¹

Simply put, we believe that flavored tobacco products pose a significant risk to the public, specifically to young people who are major consumers of these products. The enactment of SB24-022 could abate use. Although traditional cigarette smoking continues to decrease among American teens, use of flavored electronic cigarettes remains a major concern. According to 2023 national estimates, e-cigarettes were the most used tobacco product among middle and high school aged students.² Further, an estimated 16% of high school students in Colorado use electronic cigarettes, higher than the national average. Nationally, nearly 90% of the students who use electronic cigarettes report consuming flavored products.³ The long-term effects of this early usage are unknown.

There is a risk that electronic cigarette use will lead to subsequent combustible tobacco and other drug use. While tobacco use has decreased in the general population, prevalence is higher in minority groups, including those with low socioeconomic status and mental health disorders. Tobacco threatens our patients in particular; as tobacco-related illness is the leading cause of death among persons with substance use disorders.⁴

COSAM strongly supports SB24-022 and is grateful to the bill sponsors. This bill aims to reduce harmful tobacco use while also respecting the key role of local elected officials.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any other assistance that we can provide.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Stewart MD, MPHS, FASAM
Public Policy Liaison, Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine (COSAM)
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Cell: 847 525 3527

CC: The Honorable Julie Gonzales
The Honorable Sonya Jaquez Lewis
The Honorable Byron Pelton
The Honorable Rod Pelton
The Honorable Janice Rich
The Honorable Faith Winter

¹ ASAM - American Society of Addiction Medicine. (2021). E-Cigarettes. [asam.org.
https://www.asam.org/advocacy/public-policy-statements/details/public-policy-statements/2021/08/09/e-cigarettes](https://www.asam.org/advocacy/public-policy-statements/details/public-policy-statements/2021/08/09/e-cigarettes)

² Birdsey, J., Cornelius, M., Jamal, A., Park-Lee, E., Cooper, M. R., Wang, J., Sawdey, M. D., Cullen, K. A., & Neff, L. (2023). Tobacco Product Use Among U.S. Middle and High School Students – National Youth Tobacco Survey, 2023. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7244a1.htm>

³ Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. (2023). The Toll of Tobacco in Colorado. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/colorado>

⁴ American Society of Addiction Medicine. (2022). Integrating Tobacco Use Disorder Interventions in Addiction Treatment. [asam.org. https://www.asam.org/quality-care/clinical-guidelines/tobacco](https://www.asam.org/quality-care/clinical-guidelines/tobacco)