



April 2, 2019

Assemblymember Kevin McCarty
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0007

RE: AB 739 (McCarty) Flavored Tobacco Products
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Assembly Member McCarty:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4, strongly supports your proposed legislation AB 739 prohibiting a tobacco retailer from selling, offering for sale, or possessing with the intent to sell or offer for sale, a flavored tobacco product.

Citing an alarming rise in e-cigarette use among youth, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a joint report in November 2018 showing that more than 3.6 million middle and high school students are using e-cigarettes. The stunning growth between 2017 and 2018 amounted to a 78 percent increase in e-cigarette use by high school students and a 48 percent increase by middle school students.

Eighty percent of young people who have used tobacco products (including traditional cigarettes and e-cigarettes) started with a flavored product. These products often mimic popular candies, drinks, or snacks in both packaging and flavor, making them particularly appealing to youth. A variety of flavored tobacco products like cotton candy, bubble gum, and mango are widely available on retail shelves.

AB 739 would help reduce tobacco use and help protect young people from establishing this deadly addiction, and the cancer, cardiovascular disease and other chronic conditions it causes.

Pediatricians across the state of California strongly support AB 739. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of the children, youth, and families of California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raelene Walker, MD".

Raelene Walker, MD
Governing Board, American Academy of Pediatrics, California