

May 25, 2019

Senator Susan Rubio
State Capitol, Room 4052
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 538 (Rubio): Electronic cigarettes.
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Senator Rubio:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing the over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide, strongly supports your proposed legislation SB 538 requiring manufacturers of electronic cigarettes to submit information regarding the appearance of electronic cigarettes sold in the state to the Department of Public Health (DPH), and requiring DPH to post the information on its website and to conduct a public outreach campaign to notify school districts, charter schools, and parent organizations about the posted information.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nicotine is highly addictive and can affect the structure of the developing brain. This is one reason why the sale of e-cigarettes to youth under the age of 21 is currently prohibited under California law. However, many teens still acquire e-cigarettes illegally, and unlike regular cigarettes, e-cigarettes are easy to disguise in such a way that they can be easily mistaken for other electronic devices. This makes it difficult for parents and teachers to recognize these devices when they see them, leaving children more vulnerable to the ill health effects of nicotine abuse. SB 538 would help parents keep their children healthy by requiring that e-cigarette manufacturers send information to DPH to be publicly posted and shared with parents and school staff, so that these adults may more readily recognize e-cigarettes when they see them and act appropriately if they find them in the possession of a child or student. This could prevent the health effects of nicotine abuse for many children across the state.

Pediatricians across the state of California strongly support your proposed legislation SB 538.

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,



Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

Cc: AAP-CA Leadership; AAPCA Advocate Lydia Bourne