

Dear Public Health Committee,

I am a pediatrician who works in New Haven, CT and Chair of the Advocacy Committee for the CT Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. These are my personal views and do not reflect those of my employer.

I am writing to **strongly support H.B. No. 6488 (RAISED) - An Act Concerning Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems, And Vapor Products**

[The American Academy of Pediatrics](#) advocates that the sale of e-cigarettes to individuals less than 21 years old should be **prohibited** and that candy/fruit flavored products, which encourage youth smoking initiation, should also be **prohibited**.

[The 2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey](#) showed that from 2017 to 2019, e-cigarette use **more than doubled** among high school students (from 11.7% to 27.5%) and **tripled** among middle school students (from 3.3% to 10.5%).

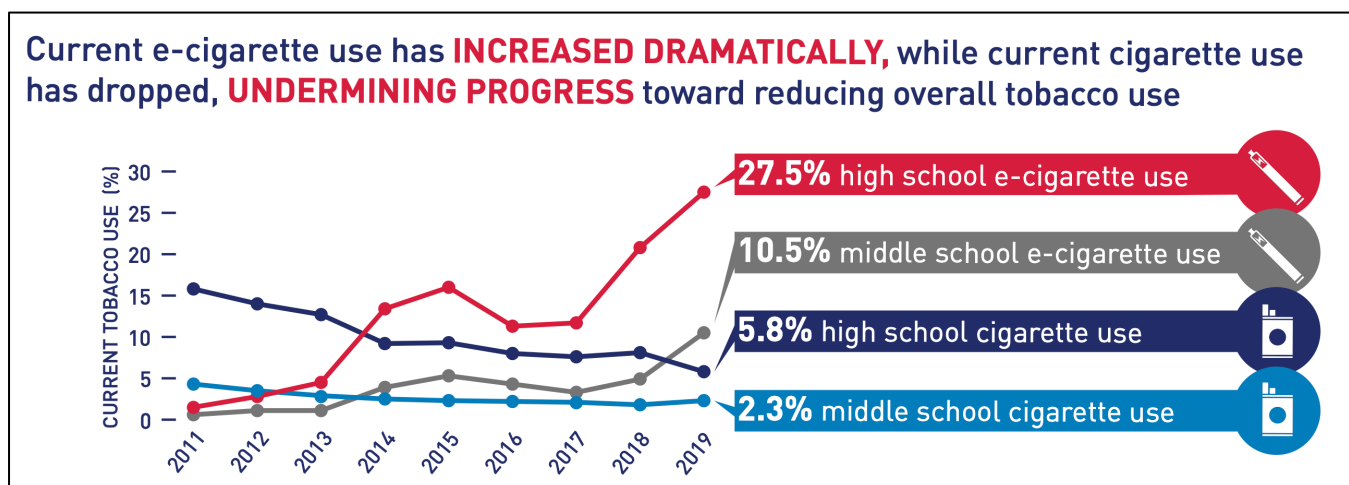


Figure 1: Data from the 2019 National Youth Survey

Flavored e-cigarettes are responsible for this increase in youth use. Data shows **97% of youth using e-cigarettes report using a flavored product in the past month**. Further, 70% report that they use e-cigarettes due to flavored products.

Therefore, banning the sale of **all flavored tobacco, including menthol products** in CT is a critical action which will protect the health and wellbeing of children in CT.

Thank you for considering my testimony. Please reach out with questions.

Sincerely,

Molly Markowitz, MD FAAP
Chair, Advocacy Committee
CT American Academy of Pediatrics Chapter
Email: molly.markowitz@yale.edu