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Organization or Agency: CT Acad of Pediatrics

Topic: SB00340 - AAC TOBACCO DEALER LICENSE RENEWALS.
Supports

Testimony:

Testimony in Support of SB 340 An Act Concerning Tobacco License Renewals and the Municipal Police Chief

My name is Sandra Carbonari and I am a primary care pediatrician as well as a member of the Executive Board of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. In this testimony I represent over 600 of my colleagues in support of SB 340 An Act Concerning Tobacco License Renewals and the Municipal Police Chief.

E-Cigarettes are the most used tobacco products among youth, and use is rising at an alarming rate. They contain a solution containing nicotine, chemicals and other toxic substances such as ant-freeze, diethylene glycol and carcinogens. These solutions are flavored in a blatant attempt to appeal to our young people. In 2020, 19.6% of high school students and 4.7% of middle school students reported having used e-cigarettes in the last 30 days, according to CDC data. Youth use of e-cigarettes has increased dramatically in recent years.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has released a detailed AAP Policy Statement with the facts about this serious public health problem. Public recommendations include reducing youth access to e-cigarettes.

This bill will strengthen protections against tobacco dealers who repeatedly sell these products to minors. Enhanced involvement of law enforcement will deter tobacco dealer violations, such as sales to minors, and thus reduce the frequency of these violations.

Please pass this bill as a step toward protecting our adolescents and preadolescents from the harm caused by tobacco products.