



House Economic Matters Committee

February 6, 2020

House Bill 3

Business Regulation - Flavored Tobacco Products - Prohibition

Support

NCADD-Maryland supports House Bill 3. NCADD-Maryland has long supported policies that deter young people from smoking tobacco products. The tobacco industry has used sweet flavors and other marketing tools over the years to entice young people to try their products, knowing that the science is clear: The earlier in life one starts smoking, the more likely one will become addicted. Flavored vaping products are just the latest attempt to get kids hooked.

Flavored nicotine products were largely banned by the federal government in 2009 and the results included a marked decrease in the number of young people smoking. Current, it is estimated that in Maryland, 13% of high school students have used a vaping product. Vaping products deliver more concentrated amounts of nicotine in higher volumes, putting our youth at greater risk of developing dependence on nicotine.

When research shows that nearly 90% of adult smokers started smoking before the age of 18, it is an essential public health policy to limit youth exposure to nicotine products.

We urge your support of House Bill 3.

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.

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