

DAWN D. GILE
Legislative District 33
Anne Arundel County

Finance Committee

Chair

Anne Arundel County
Senate Delegation



Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 East
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3568 · 301-858-3568
800-492-7122 Ext. 3568
Dawn.Gile@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of SB0582 - Business Regulation - Cigarette, Other Tobacco Product,
and Electronic Smoking Device Retailers - Nicotine Replacement Therapy Products
(Making Quitting Convenient Act)**

Madame Chair, Madame Vice Chair, and Fellow Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

SB0582 as-amended would require a licensed cigarette retailer and electronic smoking devices (ESDs) retailer to stock and offer for sale “nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) products,” drugs or devices approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for the sole purpose of aiding in the cessation of tobacco use or smoking.

While smoking is on the decline, the fight against tobacco is far from over. Over 7,500 Maryland residents die each year from smoking-related diseases and hundreds of thousands more suffer from tobacco-related diseases such as COPD, emphysema, or cancers. Quitting smoking is one of the most important actions people can take to improve their health. This is true regardless of their age or how long they have been smoking.

This common-sense legislation aims to make quitting more convenient in Maryland by requiring that smoking cessation products, like NRTs, be offered for sale in stores that sell tobacco products. Evidence shows that NRTs helps make quitting smoking easier by relieving acute nicotine cravings.¹ With most decisions to quit spontaneous, meaning that a smoker tries to quit as soon as they make the decision to do, selling NRTs at convenience stores and other tobacco retailers along-side cigarettes could help support this spontaneous decision to quit, treat acute nicotine cravings, and prevent smoking relapses. With drug stores such as CVS no longer selling cigarettes, the opportunity to have smoking cessation products sold in the same store as tobacco products has diminished. SB0582 is about restoring this balance by increasing accessibility to products that are proven to help people quit smoking.

Per the Fiscal Note, SB0582 would not have additional state costs associated with it. For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB0582.

1

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5003586/#:~:text=Current%20evidence%20suggests%20that%2C%20all,quitting%20by%2050%20to%2070%25.>