



September 24, 2019

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Our organizations commend and fully support your plan to remove all non-tobacco flavored e-cigarettes from the market, including mint and menthol flavors. If this plan is swiftly and fully implemented, it will play a critical role in reversing the youth e-cigarette epidemic.

Data from the 2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS) shows that the youth e-cigarette epidemic has gotten even worse in the past year. E-cigarette use among high school students rose from 20.8% in 2018 to 27.5% in 2019, meaning that more than 1 in 4 high schoolers use e-cigarettes. A total of 5 million U.S. kids now use e-cigarettes. This is a public health crisis.

Nearly all (97%) current youth e-cigarette users use flavored e-cigarettes and 70% use e-cigarettes “because they come in flavors I like.” We urge your Administration to act without delay to finalize and implement its plan to remove all flavored e-cigarettes from the market—both in retail stores and online.

We urge you to reject tobacco industry pleas to weaken your proposal. It is critical to issue the revised compliance policy as announced on September 11, which included a prohibition on all non-tobacco flavors, including mint and menthol. As the 2019 NYTS data shows, mint and menthol are just as appealing to youth as other e-cigarette flavors like fruit. The percentage of high school e-cigarette users who report using mint and menthol flavors rose to 63.9% in 2019, up from 51.2% in 2018 and 42.3% in 2017. Given the prevalence of mint and menthol flavors among youth e-cigarette users and the lack of evidence that these flavors play any role in helping adults quit smoking, there is no public health justification to exempt them from any policy proposal. If the goal is to remove the e-cigarettes that are most attractive to youth, any proposal that ignores mint and menthol flavors falls short.

We urge your Administration to issue and implement the final guidance policy on the timetable stated by Secretary Azar, who stated that the FDA would issue the final policy within weeks and enforce it 30 days later.

We must do everything we can to prevent e-cigarettes from becoming an on-ramp to nicotine addiction for a generation of youth. We strongly support your proposal to swiftly remove all non-tobacco flavored e-cigarettes from the marketplace and urge you to move forward to implement this proposal without delay.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry
Action on Smoking and Health
African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council
Allergy & Asthma Network
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
American Academy of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Cancer Research
American Association for Respiratory Care
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Cardiology
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Federation of School Administrators
American Federation of Teachers
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Medical Student Association
American Public Health Association
American School Health Association
American Society of Clinical Oncology

American Thoracic Society
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Catholic Health Association of the United States
ClearWay Minnesota
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
Counter Tools
Eta Sigma Gamma – National Health Education Honorary
International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer
March of Dimes
National African American Tobacco Prevention Network
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Education Association
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Network of Public Health Institutes
Oncology Nursing Society
Parents Against Vaping E-Cigarettes (PAVe)
Protect Kids: Fight Flavored E-Cigarettes
Public Health Law Center
Public Health Solutions
Respiratory Health Association
Society for Public Health Education
Students Against Destructive Decisions
The Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons
Trinity Health
Trust for America's Health
Truth Initiative
U.S. PIRG

CC:

The Honorable Alex Azar, Secretary of Health and Human Services
The Honorable Jerome Adams, Surgeon General of the United States
The Honorable Norman Sharpless, Acting Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration