



April 19, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman, House Committee on
Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Donna Shalala
Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone and Representative Shalala:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 131,400 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write to share the organization's strong support for the *Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019*.

Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019 takes important steps to reduce the number of young people that initiate smoking. We are pleased that the bill will strengthen the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's ability to require graphic warning labels, prohibit online tobacco product sales, ban the sale of most flavored products, and limit electronic cigarette marketing to adolescents. The AAFP is particularly pleased with the bill's tobacco purchase limits for those aged 21 and younger. Increasing the Federal Trade Commission's authority will also be an important tool. Together, these proposals will help increase awareness, reduce young people's access to harmful products, and help reduce the leading cause of death in the United States.

The legislation is consistent the AAFP's long standing efforts to promote a tobacco-free society. In 1988, the AAFP began its [Tar Wars](#) community-based program to educate fourth- and fifth-grade students about the dangers of tobacco usage. As family physicians, we are dedicated to health and well-being, and welcome the opportunity to work with you to advance this legislation. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the [number](#) of middle and high school students using e-cigarettes spiked from 2.1 million in 2017 to 3.6 million in 2018. The public health community is well-aware that nine out of 10 tobacco users begin smoking before they reach 18 years of age.

We are pleased to support the *Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019*. For more information, please contact Sonya Clay, Government Relations Representative, at 202-232-9033 or sclay@aafp.org.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Munger, MD, FAAFP
Board Chair

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