

E-CIGARETTE BILLS PROTECT OUR CLEAN INDOOR AIR AND KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE.

E-cigarettes are unregulated, untested products. They are currently allowed to be used indoors even though there have been no long-term studies on the impact of secondhand vapor. They appeal to young people¹ and are sold in kid-friendly flavors.

Representative Laurie Halverson (DFL-Eagan) and Senator Kathy Sheran (DFL-Mankato) have introduced bills—HF 1931 and SF 2027—to limit e-cigarette use indoors and protect kids from nicotine addiction by keeping them behind the counter and penalizing retailers who sell them to minors.

E-cigarettes threaten our standard of clean indoor air.

Since workplaces became smoke-free in 2007, clean indoor air has been the standard that Minnesotans expect and support.

- A large majority of Minnesotans—87 percent—support upholding current standards in the Freedom to Breathe Act.²
- Studies have found that e-cigarette vapor contains nicotine, heavy metals and other toxic compounds.^{3,4,5} There have been no long-term studies conducted on e-cigarettes, so the lasting impact on the health of users or those exposed to secondhand vapor is unknown.
- Many businesses, organizations, cities and counties have independently restricted e-cigarette use, including Duluth, Ely, Hermantown, Mankato, Beltrami County, Target Field, Target Center, Mall of America and the Minnesota Zoo.



A majority of Minnesotans support regulating e-cigarettes²

79% Support adding them to Freedom to Breathe.

98% Support prohibiting sales to minors.

87% Support keeping behind the counter.

E-cigarettes appeal to youth.

E-cigarettes are allowed to come in candy flavors such as gummy bear and cotton candy. Research shows that flavored tobacco products appeal to children and teens.⁶

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study found that e-cigarette use among middle-school and high-school students increased between 2011 and 2012.¹

E-cigarette makers are using similar marketing techniques as the tobacco industry did to sell cigarettes. These tobacco industry marketing strategies have been linked to youth smoking initiation.

The Freedom to Breathe coalition is a group of Minnesota's leading health and nonprofit organizations who share a goal of maintaining the strong standard of clean air made possible by the Freedom to Breathe Act. Since the law's passage in 2007, clean indoor air has become the standard that Minnesotans expect and overwhelmingly support.

Freedom to Breathe partners include: Allina Health, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Heart Association, American Lung Association in Minnesota, Association for Nonsmokers- Minnesota, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, Centra Care Health System, Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota, ClearWay Minnesota, Four Corners Partnership, HealthPartners, LAAMPP Institute, Local Public Health Association of Minnesota, Metro-MN Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society, Minnesota Medical Association, PartnerSHIP 4 Health, Southwest Community Health Improvement Program (C.H.I.P.) and Twin Cities Medical Society.

Citations

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Notes from the Field: Electronic Cigarette Use Among Middle and High School Students — United States, 2011–2012. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. 62(35);729-730.

² Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. Minnesota E-cigarette Survey by the Morris Leatherman Company, January 2014.

³ Goniewicz, ML, Knysak, J, Gawron, M, et al. Levels of selected carcinogens and toxicants in vapour from electronic cigarettes. *Tobacco Control*. 2013. doi:10.1136/tobaccocontrol-2012-050859.

⁴ Williams, M, Villarreal A, Bozhilov K, Lin S, Talbot, P. Metal and silicate particles including nanoparticles are present in electronic cigarette cartomizer fluid and aerosol. *PLoS ONE*. 2013;8 (3), e57987.

⁵ Schripp, T, Markewitz, D, Uhde, E, Salthammer, T. Does e-cigarette consumption cause passive vaping? *Indoor Air*. 2013;23(1), 25-31. doi:10.1111/j.1600-0668.2012.00792.

⁶ US Surgeon General. *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking-Attributable Disease*. Atlanta, GA: Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2010.

⁸ US Surgeon General. *Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults*. Atlanta, GA: Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2012.