



American  
Heart  
Association.

January 23, 2020

Representative Patton, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
Proponent, HB 2450

Chair Patton and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the American Heart Association (AHA) regarding HB 2450 which proposes to amend the Kansas clean indoor air act to include electronic cigarettes. Use of e-cigarettes such as vapes and Juul is becoming an increasing crisis among teens. More than 1 in 5 high school students (20.8%) reported that they used an e-cigarette in the past month, a 78% increase over the previous year. Allowing these products in public spaces encourages their use and sends the wrong message to youth and adult users alike.

While E-cigarettes do not produce tobacco smoke, they do produce an aerosol, often mistaken for water vapor, that actually consists of fine particles. Many of these particles contain varying amounts of toxic chemicals which have been linked to heart disease, respiratory diseases and cancer. The long-term health effects of these products are still unknown, and e-cigarettes should not be considered "safe" for the person using them or those exposed to the secondhand aerosols produced from them.

Additionally, smoke-free laws help those who want to quit by providing them with public free from any pressure or temptation to use tobacco. To support those trying to quit, smoke-free laws should include all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes.

The AHA supports public policies that regulate e-cigarettes in the same way as all other tobacco products, which includes adding them to existing clean indoor air laws. Everyone should have the right to breathe clean air. I respectfully urge the committee to favorably pass HB 2450 out of committee for consideration by the full House.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kari A. Rinker".

Kari Rinker, MPA  
State Government Relations Director  
American Heart Association