

Written neutral testimony before the
House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
on
HB 2340 – Increasing the minimum age to purchase or possess
cigarettes and tobacco products from 18 to 21 and includes adding vaping
to the Clean Air Indoor Act.

by

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Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral written testimony for HB 2340, which raises the purchase and possession age of tobacco products from 18 years of age to 21 years of age, and includes adding vaping to the Clean Air Indoor Act.

Within the last ten years, Kansas has made significant progress in tobacco prevention initiatives, including but not limited to, the enactment of the Clear Air Indoor Act and the development of the “Kansas Vape-Free Schools Toolkit”. The CDC considers overall tobacco use and nicotine exposure particularly damaging to the early adolescent brain development. From a public health perspective, raising the legal age to 21, and amending the Clean Air Indoor Act to include the use of e-cigarettes, is one big step to reducing smoking initiation among youth, strengthening policies and therefore, preventing disease and premature death.

According to CDC, there are five components included in a comprehensive tobacco control plan; State and Community Interventions, Mass-Reach Health Communication Interventions, Cessation Interventions, Surveillance and Evaluation, Infrastructure, Administration, and Management. A comprehensive plan supports the mission of reducing disability and disease when there is no evidence of gaps in the approach. This bill is a good first step to one of the pillars of a comprehensive tobacco control plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.