



## TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SB376

March 20, 2018

Chairperson Tyson,

The Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP) represents over 90% of the practicing pediatricians in the state. The KAAP has the fundamental goal that all children and adolescents in Kansas have the opportunity to grow safe and strong. It is with this goal in mind that we want to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 376. We support the tax increase for the reasons below but also the investment of a portion of the revenue to promote tobacco prevention and cessation.

- Nicotine is highly addictive and has negative effects on brain development from the prenatal period into adolescence.
- Preventing youth smoking initiation is an important strategy to reducing tobacco-related diseases.
- Tobacco product usage including ENDS are still a significant youth and adolescent health problem in this country
- Each day in the United States, more than 3,200 youth aged 18 years or younger smoke their first cigarette, and an additional 2,100 youth and young adults become daily cigarette smokers.
- In 2016, more than 2 million U.S. middle and high school students used e-cigarettes in the past 30 days, including 4.3% of middle school students and 11.3% of high school students
- ENDS are increasingly being marketed to young adults and adolescents.
- Candy and fruit flavored ENDS encourage youth smoking initiation
- **Most studies found that raising tobacco product prices through increased taxes is a highly effective measure for reducing smoking among youth, young adults,**
- **Cigarette manufacturers admit that taxes on tobacco products reduces youth usage.**

- **There should not be loopholes in which some tobacco products are regulated and taxed less stringently than others.**
- Taxation by one government entity should not restrict or impair the ability of other government entities to impose additional taxes on tobacco products
- Tax rates should escalate with inflation.

It is clear, Senate Bill 376 is an important step in prevention of tobacco usage in our state. Thank you for your time and attention. We welcome any questions you might have and are happy to serve as your resource on pediatric issues.

Submitted by  
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