

Memorandum

To: Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs Committee
From: AIDS Project of Southern Vermont, Vermont CARES, Vermont People with AIDS Coalition
Date: April 23, 2019
Re: H.26 - Restricting retail and Internet sales of electronic cigarettes, liquid nicotine, and tobacco paraphernalia in Vermont

The Vermont AIDS Services Organizations support H.26. However, we are concerned about some language in Section 2 that may adversely affect medical marijuana patients.

H.26 only allows shipping of tobacco substitutes and paraphernalia to a licensed wholesale dealer or retail dealer in Vermont. This would effectively prohibit patients from purchasing tobacco substitutes or paraphernalia electronically or by phone, which many patients who are homebound need to do. Note that “tobacco substitutes” include other electronic or battery powered devices that contain or deliver substances into the body that have not been approved by the FDA for other medical purposes. Tobacco paraphernalia includes rolling papers, pipes, and other products used for medical marijuana.

Therefore, we request that the Committee strike tobacco substitutes or tobacco paraphernalia from Section 2 of the bill. In the alternative, we would request an exemption for medical marijuana use.

Thank you.