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Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 6:44 PM
To: Ann Cummings <ACUMMINGS@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: [External] Vote Yes on S.288

[External]

Vermont currently spends approximately **\$348 million** annually on tobacco-related health care costs. With the use of e-cigarettes among Vermont high school students more than doubling in two years from **2017 to 2019 from 12% to 26%**, these costs stand to grow exponentially.

We are urging support of S.288, the bill to ban flavored tobacco products because:

1. According to the Truth Initiative **97% of youth** who vape use a flavored product.
2. Among high school students who use e-cigarettes, use of mint or menthol increased from **38% in 2018 to 57% in 2019** after Juul restricted sales of fruit and candy flavors.
3. **80% of youth's 12-17** start smoking using Flavored/menthol tobacco products.

The Tobacco industry is pushing hard against banning flavored tobacco products because they know flavors help them sell a lifetime of nicotine addiction that costs the youth of Vermont and the entire state health care system.

Keep kids safe!

Thanks for listening,

Dr. Ashley, Pediatrician

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