

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS  
CANCER CENTER

August 10, 2020

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of The University of Kansas Cancer Center, I am pleased to share our endorsement of the work you are doing to address the youth vaping epidemic in the Kansas City metro area. Although there is some evidence to support the use of e-cigarettes as a short-term, harm reduction tool among current cigarette smokers, there is currently no long-term evidence of benefit. Meanwhile, the potential benefits in breaking the cycle of addiction to flavored tobacco products and the potential reduction in youth uptake of tobacco products seem to far outweigh this potential theoretical benefit prompting our support for this ordinance.

As an organization with a focus on health, we are alarmed by the drastic increase in vaping rates among young people. While there has been a steep drop in youth use of traditional cigarettes, there has been significant increase in e-cigarette usage – products that are predominantly flavored. In the past two years, the rate of youth using vaping products has increased by 135% which breaks down to 1 in 4 teens. Among those users 81.5% attribute the variety of flavors they enjoy as their reason for vaping.

As a community, we must act quickly and aggressively to prevent yet another generation in the Kansas City metro area from becoming addicted to nicotine. Children are starting to try these products at a younger age than we have seen before with middle school becoming a common starting point. We believe that eliminating the sale of flavored products that attract young people will have a dramatic impact on lowering usage rates locally.

The University of Kansas Cancer Center is pleased to stand alongside the American Heart Association and other organizations across the metro working to address this epidemic.

Sincerely,



Roy A. Jensen, MD  
Director

