Whereas, The United States has made great progress in decreasing cigarette smoking since the first Surgeon General's report in 1964; and

Whereas, Combustible cigarettes continue to kill between 450,000 and 500,000 people each year in the United States; and

Whereas, The death toll from all other forms of nicotine is very small and not statistically measurable; and

Whereas, There are many other nicotine-delivering products available to U.S. consumers; and

Whereas, The level of measurable toxins in non-combustible nicotine products is much lower than in combustible products; and

Whereas, Safety concerns (real or imagined) have inhibited smokers’ understanding of the benefits of product switching; and

Whereas, Wise regulation and medically accurate labeling can address safety concerns about non-combustible nicotine products; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association study and report on the conditions under which our country could successfully eliminate the manufacture, distribution, and sale of combustible cigarettes and other combustible tobacco products at the earliest feasible date.

(Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 04/26/19
RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Sales and Distribution of Tobacco Products and Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) and E-cigarettes H-495.986

H-495.986 Tobacco Product Sales and Distribution

Our AMA:
(1) recognizes the use of e-cigarettes and vaping as an urgent public health epidemic and will actively work with the Food and Drug Administration and other relevant stakeholders to counteract the marketing and use of addictive e-cigarette and vaping devices, including but not limited to bans and strict restrictions on marketing to minors under the age of 21;
(2) encourages the passage of laws, ordinances and regulations that would set the minimum age for purchasing tobacco products, including electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) and e-cigarettes, at 21 years, and urges strict enforcement of laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to minors;
(3) supports the development of model legislation regarding enforcement of laws restricting children's access to tobacco, including but not limited to attention to the following issues: (a) provision for licensure to sell tobacco and for the revocation thereof; (b) appropriate civil or criminal penalties (e.g., fines, prison terms, license revocation) to deter violation of laws restricting children's access to and possession of tobacco; (c) requirements for merchants to post notices warning minors against attempting to purchase tobacco and to obtain proof of age for would-be purchasers; (d) measures to facilitate enforcement; (e) banning out-of-package cigarette sales ("loosies"); and (f) requiring tobacco purchasers and vendors to be of legal smoking age;
(4) requests that states adequately fund the enforcement of the laws related to tobacco sales to minors;
(5) opposes the use of vending machines to distribute tobacco products and supports ordinances and legislation to ban the use of vending machines for distribution of tobacco products;
(6) seeks a ban on the production, distribution, and sale of candy products that depict or resemble tobacco products;
(7) opposes the distribution of free tobacco products by any means and supports the enactment of legislation prohibiting the disbursement of samples of tobacco and tobacco products by mail;
(8) (a) publicly commends (and so urges local medical societies) pharmacies and pharmacy owners who have chosen not to sell tobacco products, and asks its members to encourage patients to seek out and patronize pharmacies that do not sell tobacco products; (b) encourages other pharmacists and pharmacy owners individually and through their professional associations to remove such products from their stores; (c) urges the American Pharmacists Association, the National Association of Retail Druggists, and other pharmaceutical associations to adopt a position calling for their members to remove tobacco products from their stores; and (d) encourages state medical associations to develop lists of pharmacies that have voluntarily banned the sale of tobacco for distribution to their members; and
(9) opposes the sale of tobacco at any facility where health services are provided; and
(10) supports that the sale of tobacco products be restricted to tobacco specialty stores.

Citation: CSA Rep. 3, A-04; Appended: Res. 413, A-04; Reaffirmation A-07; Amended: Res. 817, I-07; Reaffirmation A-08; Reaffirmation I-08; Reaffirmation A-09; Reaffirmation I-13; Reaffirmation A-14; Reaffirmation I-14; Reaffirmation A-15; Modified in lieu of Res. 421, A-15; Modified in lieu of Res. 424, A-15; Reaffirmation I-16; Appended: Res. 926, I-18