



TOBACCO FREE KANSAS
COALITION

Testimony of the Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition
House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Written – Opposition to HB 2094

Chairman Kessler and Members of the Committee

The Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition (TFKC) is a statewide alliance of health, medical, education, law enforcement, health coalitions, parents, youth, and individuals advocating for laws, policies, and evidence-based program funding to significantly reduce tobacco use and addiction.

On behalf of our Board and members, TFKC offers opposition testimony on HB 2094: a bill which authorizes the sale of electronic cigarettes in tobacco vending machines. While Kansas statute dictates the locations where tobacco vending machines are allowed, vending machines in public spaces can inadvertently increase the risk of underage exposure and access. The addition of e-cigarettes to vending machines will no doubt be an increased enticement for underage individuals to find ways to circumvent restrictions.

Any action which increases exposure and possible access to e-cigarette/vaping products in counter to the effort to prevent youth from initiation use of tobacco products:

- E-cigarettes and vaping devices are preferred over combustible and chewing tobacco with young people and minors.
- E-cigarettes contain nicotine, a highly addictive substance which is particularly potent when exposed the still developing brains of youth.
- E-cigarette vending machines are designed to attract attention with brightly colored, digital displays highlighting various flavors of product that have the potential to attract youth.

Youth are being targeted by the tobacco industry's sales and marketing as proven by the recent Juul settlement - a \$9.9 million settlement to the of Kansas resolving an investigation of allegations e-cigarette manufacturer Juul Labs engaged in deceptive marketing and sales practices appealing to youth who couldn't legally purchase the product.

TFKC has long been concerned with protecting Kansas children and youth from initiating tobacco use and we believe that offering broader and potential unassisted e-cigarette access via vending machines will result in easier youth access.

Kari Rinker
Chair, Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition Policy Committee