



Written Neutral testimony before the  
**House Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

on

**HB 2563 – Increasing the minimum age to purchase cigarettes or tobacco products from 18 to 21;  
Prohibiting cigarette vending machines and flavored vaping products**

by

**Leah Fliter, Advocacy and Outreach Specialist**

**Kansas Association of School Boards**

**February 13, 2020**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

KASB submits this written neutral testimony on **HB 2563**.

We do not have a legislative position on “Tobacco 21” legislation so cannot take a position on that portion of the bill. However, at the KASB Delegate Assembly in December of 2019, our Delegate Assembly voted to adopt our 2020 Legislative resolution that includes the following statement:

**Electronic nicotine delivery devices.** Support efforts to improve education and awareness of and address the physical and psychological damage caused by tobacco and electronic nicotine delivery devices, including cessation. Support action by the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) to prohibit tobacco use and the use of electronic nicotine delivery devices at school activities. Expand the Indoor Clean Air Act to include such devices.

This language was included in our policy statement after several regional discussions in the summer and fall of 2019 reflecting a growing concern among our members about the use of ENDDs on school grounds.

The State Board of Education has been leading the discussion on the impacts of Vaping/E-Cigarette use in school facilities and in December approved recommendations from their task force that would prohibit not only students and staff but also parents, volunteers, contractors and vendors from using any tobacco products and e-cigarettes “in any district facility, in school vehicles, at school-sponsored activities, programs or events, and on school owned property at all times.”

While most Kansas school districts have taken action to ban the use of these devices in schools, the ability to regulate the general population during school sponsored events or activities is more complicated because it is not prohibited in current statute.

KASB believes that adopting HB 2563 to include “electronic cigarette” in the language of the Kansas clean indoor air act would help to strengthen the policies of school districts across the state and support them in the enforcement of those policies.