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March 11, 2019

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Dear Judiciary Committee Members:

On behalf of our physician members, I am writing in support of House Bill 97. This is legislation that will, in part, restrict those under the age of 18 from purchasing e-cigarettes or other nicotine products.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), “E-cigarettes have the potential to benefit adult smokers who are not pregnant if used as a complete substitute for regular cigarettes and other smoked tobacco products. E-cigarettes are not safe for youth, young adults, pregnant women, or adults who do not currently use tobacco products.” These devices contain nicotine—which is highly addictive—in addition to other cancer-causing chemicals, volatile organic compounds, and heavy metals. The CDC also notes that nicotine can harm adolescent brain development, which continues into the early to mid-20s.

We applaud Representative Rapp for her commitment to protect our youth from using devices that they believe are safe alternatives to conventional cigarettes. With flavors like bubble gum, apple crisp, and mango, it’s no wonder minors find these products attractive.

We respectfully ask that you support House Bill 97 and in turn, protect the Commonwealth’s youth.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin P. Raniowski".

Martin P. Raniowski, MA  
Executive Vice President  
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