



**Henry Spiller, MS, D.ABAT, FAACT**

*Proponent Testimony—Senate Bill 54*

House Health and Aging Committee

**December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Chairwoman Gonzales, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the House Health and Aging Committee, thank you for the opportunity to come before you today to present proponent testimony on Senate Bill 54. My Name is Henry Spiller. I am the Director of the Central Ohio Poison Center at Nationwide Children’s Hospital. We serve as the poison control center for 64 of Ohio’s 88 counties. I am board certified in Toxicology and an elected Fellow of American Academy of Clinical Toxicology. In addition to my clinical responsibilities I have more than 300 research publications in the field of toxicology and injury prevention.

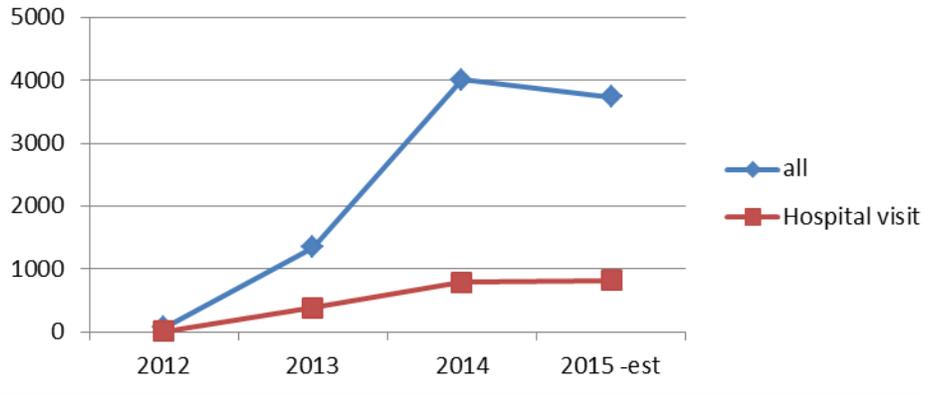
I am here in support of SB 54, which would require Child-Resistant closures on flavored liquid nicotine containers. These are commonly referred to as “E-juice”. These are the refill bottles of nicotine for electronic cigarettes or “vaping”. E-juice is not the same as a cigarette. It is concentrated liquid nicotine in a bottle. Liquid nicotine was sold in this country as a pesticide for almost 100 years. As recently as 1980, 200 tons of liquid nicotine was sold as a pesticide. It is no longer used in this country as a pesticide, but now we have it on the shelf with added flavoring.

How much more attractive can you make this for children? You can find liquid nicotine in any flavor you want, including chocolate, gummy bears, and cookie crunch. In some stores there are as many as 300 choices for flavors. The liquid to refill these devices comes in simple small bottles, often with no child resistant closures. And the amount of nicotine in the little refill bottles is frightening – as much as 100 mg in a teaspoon of the liquid. In less than a mouthful (one sip) there is more nicotine than an entire pack of cigarettes, and more than enough to cause seizures in a small child. Drinking a small half ounce bottle could be a fatal amount in a toddler. Nicotine in these concentrations is a nerve poison. At lower doses you would see milder symptoms like nausea, vomiting and an increase in heart rate. As the dose increases you would see increasingly serious symptoms: muscle weakness, bradycardia, hypotension, respiratory weakness, and finally shock, seizures, and death. The dose to produce all these symptoms is available in one small bottle if you are a toddler.

E-cigarettes have become increasingly popular and widely available. As this has occurred, we are seeing more and more liquid nicotine bottles in homes with small children. Nationally, since 2012, more than 5000 cases of poisoning from e-cigarettes have been reported to poison centers with more 1100 cases seen in the hospital and more than 200 serious cases and two deaths. In Ohio we are averaging 2 ER visits a month for liquid nicotine in children. And it is only increasing (see graphs below). If you would put child resistant closures on Bleach and mouthwash and aspirin bottles, why not put it on something as dangerous as flavored, concentrated nicotine. In fact sporadic local stores have begun to use child resistant bottles. A number of national groups such as the American Vaping Association have agreed that child resistant closures (“Child-proof”) are needed. These are joined by a number of other important groups such as the American Association of Poison Control Centers, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The child resistant bottles for this purpose are available. We just need to make sure they are used. This legislation passed the Senate with broad bipartisan support earlier this year, and the House Health and Aging committee unanimously reported a companion version of this bill in June. Thank you for your time and your consideration of this bill to help protect our children. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

### Nicotine cases reported to US poison Centers



### Liquid nicotine cases reported to poison centers in OH

