

December 09, 2015

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 54
House Health and Aging Committee
Sandy Oxley, CEO, Voices for Ohio's Children**

Chair Gonzales, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the House Health and Aging Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony before you today on SB 54. I am Sandy Oxley, the Chief Executive Officer of Voices for Ohio's Children.

Voices for Ohio's Children advocates for policies that maximize a child's life chances by ensuring children are safe, healthy, educated, connected, and employable. Voices helps ensure that the needs of Ohio's three million children are prioritized at the local, state and federal levels. Our advocacy organization plays a big role in educating and influencing the community and public officials about sound public policies that help ensure children succeed.

As you know, SB 54 requires liquid nicotine refill products to be sold in child-resistant packaging. As the sponsors and other proponents of this legislation have indicated, current data shows that between 2012-2013 there was a 300% increase in accidental poisonings of children resulting from the ingestion of liquid nicotine created for use in e-cigarettes. We believe that SB 54 will reduce this startling trend, and will help to ensure the health and safety of Ohio's children.

We know that child resistant packaging has a history of effectively reducing deaths associated with medications that are commonly stored in family households. So, it is essential that we require manufacturers of these highly concentrated amounts of liquid nicotine to implement these precautionary measures to protect children from accidental poisoning. This is especially true because these products are easy to ingest, and are often sold using flavors that are appealing to children by mimicking their favorite flavors of candy, cereal and other treats. A quick internet search for these liquid nicotine products yields results for liquid nicotine flavors such as Admiral Berry Crunch, Fruit Hoops, Cinnatoast Munch, Wacky Taffy and Happy Rancher E-juice. Voices believes that Ohio should join Vermont, Minnesota, New York, Missouri and Illinois in enacting legislation that provides the basic safeguards included in SB 54. We also commend Senator Jones for her



ongoing efforts to ensure the health and safety of Ohio's children through this and other pieces of legislation. Keeping kids safe is simply the responsible thing to do. Voices urges members of this committee and members of the Ohio House of Representatives to act quickly to pass this SB 54.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify before you today. I am happy to answer any questions that you have at this time.

safe
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