

To: Members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce & Labor Committee
Fr: Tim Maglione, JD, Sr. Director, Ohio State Medical Association
Marisa Weisel, MPH, Manager, Ohio State Medical Association
Da: May 27, 2015
Re: Support for Senate Bill 54

We write on behalf of the 20,000 physician, resident and medical student members of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) to express our support for Senate Bill 54, legislation that aims to protect children from dangerous liquid nicotine.

As you are likely aware, the rising use of electronic cigarettes has been accompanied by a dramatic increase in the number of children being poisoned by liquid nicotine. Exposure to liquid nicotine – sometimes referred to as “e-liquid” – is extremely dangerous for kids. Since nicotine is a neurotoxin, a small child who ingests even a tiny amount of the substance can become fatally ill. Children may try to drink liquid nicotine because it is available in sweet, candy-like flavors, and it is usually brightly colored. Some kids may be harmed just by touching e-liquid because its chemicals can be absorbed through the skin.

Senate Bill 54 and its companion, Bill 168, would prevent children from easily drinking or touching liquid nicotine by requiring child-resistant packaging on all products intended for use in electronic cigarettes – a practice that has proven to be very effective in preventing children from being poisoned by other harmful substances, including medications. According to the changes outlined in the bill, an electronic cigarette product sold in Ohio would need to have packaging that is designed or constructed to be significantly difficult for a child under the age of five to open or to obtain a toxic or harmful amount of the product, but not so difficult that a normal adult couldn't open the package. The bill stipulates that violators of this law – i.e. those selling products without appropriate child-proof packaging – would be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 for each violation. SB 54's requirements would not apply to e-cigarette products sold in sealed, pre-filled, or disposable replacement cartridges.

Between 2012 and 2013, the number of children poisoned by liquid nicotine rose by three hundred percent. SB 54 provides a logical way to counteract this trend. The OSMA urges you vote in favor of this legislation before more children are harmed by hazardous e-liquid.

Thank you for your consideration our organization's views on this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or comments you have about this bill.



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