

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Donna Shalala  
Member of Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone and Representative Shalala:

We are writing to express our strong support for H.R. 2339, the Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019. Your legislation will address the current youth e-cigarette epidemic that is threatening to undermine the progress that has been made in reducing youth cigarette use and also reduce youth use of other tobacco products. Your bill's comprehensive approach to reducing tobacco use will protect public health and save lives.

The bill's prohibition on flavored tobacco products that appeal to kids, including flavored e-

this alarming rise in youth e-cigarette use an "epidemic". It is clear that flavors, including kid-friendly flavors like gummy bear and cotton candy, play a significant role in attracting youth to these products. Ninety-seven percent of youth e-cigarette users report using a flavored e-cigarette in the last month.

Your proposed action to prohibit menthol cigarettes is critically important. Menthol cools and numbs the throat and reduces the harshness of tobacco, making it easier and more appealing for youth to start smoking. Over half of youth smokers seven

