

TESTIMONY SUPPORT OF SB2189

Jessica J. Arndt
1329 Meredith Dr.
Bismarck, ND 58501
701-527-7956

Chairman Senator Bell, and members of the Finance and Taxation Committee. My name is Jessica Arndt. I currently serve as the President of the Bismarck Tobacco Free Coalition. I am also a respiratory therapist and educator. I have worked in respiratory care for nearly 13 years and am here to provide testimony in support of SB 2189.

This bill is important as it creates a tool to assist with preventing and reducing youth electronic smoking devices & vaping rates. In 2019 North Dakota ranked in the top five states for high youth e-cigarette usage. Our current youth usage rate is 33.1%. Since this bill will require businesses that sell electronic smoking devices to be licensed, it will assist with compliance checks and the monitoring of the sale of electronic smoking devices to youth. Currently, a license is not required making it impossible to know if businesses are selling these products, let alone selling them to our vulnerable youth.

The cities of Bismarck and Lincoln categorize electronic smoking devices as a tobacco product and require businesses to hold a license, assisting with compliance checks. These city ordinances demonstrate support for the state law to also include electronic smoking devices in the definition of tobacco products and the tobacco tax.

The Bismarck Tobacco Free Coalition urges you to support SB 2189 because it classifies electronic smoking products as tobacco. This will create a level playing field with other tobacco products in that they will now require the same licensing and regulation and be subject for inclusion in monitoring in ND. This will be another tool to protect our youth from life-time of addiction.

Thank you for your time and consideration.