



## **Testimony in Support of HB 1412**

### **Senate Industry and Business Committee**

Chairman Larsen and Members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee, my name is Mike Krumwiede appearing on behalf of the American Heart Association in support of House Bill 1412. AHA is a nonpartisan, not for profit organization with more than 500 North Dakotan AHA volunteers who advocate for longer and healthier lives. AHA's mission is to reduce death and disability from heart disease and stroke.

According to the 2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey, 16.5% of middle and high school students under the age of 18 report obtaining e-cigarettes in a vape shop in the past month, and 9.8% from a gas station or convenience store. Here are a few additional facts from the study:

- ✓ Vape shops, gas stations and convenience stores are among the places where middle and high schoolers can obtain e-cigarettes.
- ✓ One in six middle and high school students under 18 report obtaining e-cigarettes in a vape shop.
- ✓ One in 10 middle and high school students under 18 report obtaining e-cigarettes at a gas station or convenience store.
- ✓ 75% of youth who tried to buy tobacco products reported they were not refused sale.
- ✓ In an evaluation of multiple jurisdictions with varying degrees of retail licensure requirements, the jurisdictions with stronger requirements - including a penalty system for violators, financial deterrents, and license revocation or suspension - benefited from lower cigarette and e-cigarette use and initiation among youth and young adults.

To protect our future generations, we strongly support updating our laws to add electronic smoking devices so we can better keep track of and regulate tobacco and keep it out of the hands of the youth in North Dakota. Thank you for time, we Support HB 1412 and encourage a DO PASS recommendation.