



Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. The American Lung Association in Virginia **opposes** House Bill 1069 and Senate Bill 550 which would develop a liquid nicotine and nicotine vapor products certification and directory.

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, through research, education and advocacy. The work of the American Lung Association is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to improve the air we breathe; to reduce the burden of lung disease on individuals and their families; and to eliminate tobacco use and tobacco-related diseases.

The rates of youth vaping continue to be very concerning. More than 2.1 million high school and middle school students reported using e-cigarettes in 2023. In the 2023 National Youth Tobacco Survey, nearly 90% of youth using e-cigarettes are using flavored products, with the most popular being fruit flavors, followed by candy, desserts, and other sweets second, then min and menthol flavored e-cigarettes. Flavored tobacco attracts and hooks too many Americans, and especially youth to a lifetime of addiction.

In Virginia, 15.5% of high school students use a tobacco product. The tobacco industry has continued to target youth users with marketing of flavored tobacco products which makes them appealing to youth, with many of them not realizing that these products contain nicotine.

While we appreciate the desire to address the youth e-cigarette crisis, we do not believe that this type of legislation is an effective way to address the high youth use of e-cigarettes. These type of registry bills do not address the fundamental problem of manufacturers that make flavored tobacco that are attractive to youth. These types of bills are also distracting focus on proven public health policies to address tobacco use, such as: increasing tobacco taxes, funding for tobacco control and prevention and removing flavored products from the market. Registry bills that are tied to the Premarket Tobacco Product Application (PMTA) process have very little public health impact.

The American Lung Association supports proven tobacco control policies that provide public health benefits for youth. Tobacco industry registry bills like House Bill 1069 and Senate Bill 550 are unnecessary and will have minimal public health benefit. We encourage the committee to **oppose** these bills.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and if you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at aleks.casper@lung.org or 202-719-2810.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aleks Casper".

Aleks Casper
Director of Advocacy