



To the Virginia House General Laws – ABC/Gaming Committee

Re: H. 1069 - Willett

February 6, 2024

Chairman Krizek and Members of the Committee:

The Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation/Tobacco 21 **opposes H. 1069** to establish a nicotine vapor product registry tied to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Premarket Tobacco Product Application (“PMTA”) process. While we appreciate Delegate Willett’s intent to address the youth e-cigarette epidemic, this bill will not reduce youth use of nicotine products. Indeed, these “registry” bills are currently being pushed in over a dozen states by RJ Reynolds, Altria and Juul to cut out their competitors and increase their market shares while distracting and confusing legislators from enacting policies with proven public health benefits.

Moreover:

- Registry bills are a waste of state resources; the FDA already has a list of authorized e-cigarette products on its website.
- There is a process in place for anyone, including tobacco and e-cigarette companies, to file complaints with the FDA about products that should not be on the market.
- Three states have adopted registries – Alabama, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. All are having to amend existing language for the confusion and cost these laws have caused. None of the registries are working as they were intended.
- Legislators are mistaking these registries for licensing; they are not licensing bills and do not contain proven provisions of a strong retailer licensing bill.
- Registry bills will have little to no public health benefit or impact.

Instead of H. 1069, we encourage this Committee to advance H. 790 (Del. Hope) to license nicotine sellers and establish meaningful penalties to deter unlawful sales.

We thank all members of this Committee for their desire to protect Virginia youth from the harms of early tobacco use and lifelong nicotine addiction.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Quinby | Eastern Regional Director
Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation/Tobacco 21
McLean, VA (703) 434-2078
Shannon.Quinby@Tobacco21.org
www.tobacco21.org

Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation/Tobacco 21
5600 Dublin Road
Dublin, OH 43017