

ISSUE BRIEF:

E-Cigarettes Pre-Emption and Impact on Children's Health



Tobacco Preemption- Flavor and Tobacco Retail License: OPPOSE H. 3681 and S. 498

Some lawmakers are sending a clear message that tobacco industry profits come before protecting our children from deadly tobacco products and a lifetime of addiction. The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network urges Senate lawmakers to oppose Tobacco Preemption.

- Tobacco-related illnesses are expensive and harmful for all of us. Each year in South Carolina, smoking is estimated to cost \$1.9 billion in direct health care costs, including \$476 million in Medicaid costs. Additionally, South Carolina experiences \$2.35 billion in smoking-caused productivity losses annually.
- Smoker and Non-smoker households in SC must carry the burden of tobacco costing each house hold in our state \$875.
- Proponents of states blocking local laws claim that a 'patchwork' of local laws throughout a state creates an unfair burden for businesses. But businesses are used to meeting different requirements under different local laws.
- Every community in a state is different – their populations, demographic make-ups, and economies are all are different. Even their histories and cultures differ. All those differences mean that the policies that may work best for one community may not make sense for another. Store Clerks and Law Enforcement are capable to handling different laws for different areas.
- When preemption is used by corporate special interest groups as a tool to take away power from local democracy and to diminish local power and decision-making, we all lose.
- There are no communities in SC who have enacted a flavor ban or a tobacco retail license ordinance.
- The nationwide youth tobacco rate is at its highest in 20 years, driven by the tobacco industry's aggressive use of flavors to target kids. Tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, come in a wide variety of fruit, candy including mint and menthol and dessert flavors and are often paired with flashy marketing campaigns that appeal to youth.
- SC has a higher than national average of high school students that use e-cigarettes.
- In South Carolina alone, more than 103,000 children currently 18 years old and younger are projected to die prematurely from smoking. The under regulation of tobacco products, requires we take proper actions that protect our children from a lifetime of addiction.