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PAUL D. TONKO

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

September 12, 2019

Dear Friends,

Thank you for sharing your concerns with me during our meeting on August 13th. I will convey your concerns regarding the public charge rule and Title I funding to the appropriate committee staff. If you have further questions or would like to follow up on these or other issues, please contact my education legislative staffer Noor Teebi (noor@mail.house.gov).

I am following up on the vaping issue which you all shared was a serious concern across all schools and school districts. I am proud to have joined the newly formed bipartisan Congressional Caucus to End the Youth Vaping Epidemic. This caucus will serve as a forum in Congress to discuss needed solutions to better protect American youth from the dangers of vaping and nicotine addiction. The Energy and Commerce Committee, which I am a proud member of, released a [statement](#) yesterday supporting the e-cigarette flavor ban. Our committee will be holding a hearing on September 25th on the public health impacts of e-cigarette manufacturing, sales and use. Additionally, I have cosponsored [H.R.2339](#), the Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act, which aims to address the sharp rise in use of tobacco and e-cigarette products among young people.

The Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019 includes a number of important provisions to curb the rise of youth tobacco use:

- Requires FDA to finalize a rule requiring graphic health warnings for cigarette packages within 12 months;
- Extends FDA regulations on the sale, distribution, and use of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco to all deemed tobacco products, including e-cigarettes;
- Raises the minimum age for purchasing tobacco products to 21 years and makes it unlawful for any retailer to sell a tobacco product to any person younger than 21 years of age;
- Directs FDA to prohibit non-face-to-face sales of all tobacco products including e-cigarettes and e-cigarette accessories;
- Prohibits all characterizing flavors of tobacco products, including menthol;
- Provides FDA with authority to collect user fees from all classes of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes;
- Instructs FDA to issue a final rule on the regulation of products containing synthetic nicotine or nicotine that is not made or derived from tobacco;
- Makes it unlawful to market, advertise, or promote any e-cigarette products to individuals under the age of 21; and,
- Requires the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to issue an annual report to Congress on the domestic sales, advertising, and promotional activity of cigarette, cigar, smokeless tobacco, and e-cigarette manufacturers.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns with me. I appreciate the work you all do on behalf of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul D. Tonko".

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress