



Iowa Department of Public Health
Lucas State Office Building
321 East 12th
Des Moines, IA 50319-0075

April 18, 2022

Members of the Iowa General Assembly,

As chair of the Tobacco Use Prevention and Control (TUPC) Commission, I'm writing this letter on behalf of the commission to express support for defining tobacco and tobacco products under Iowa law to be inclusive of alternative nicotine products, and vapor products, and including taxation of such products. HF 2523 amends the definition of tobacco products to include alternative nicotine products and allows for taxation of these products. HF 2523 passed out of the House State Government Committee with bipartisan support and has been referred to House Ways & Means Committee.

The TUPC Commission and Iowa Department of Public Health need to remain leaders in tobacco control and prevention. The research is clear: increases in tobacco taxes decrease tobacco use. Indeed, raising taxes on tobacco and thereby increasing its price is one of the most effective ways to reduce tobacco use. Additionally, all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and alternative nicotine products, should be taxed at rates that discourage youth use.

Tobacco kills more people than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combined. With new tobacco products like e-cigarettes and the vaping epidemic among our youth, it is more urgent than ever to take action.

As leaders in our communities, we are working tirelessly to educate young people about the dangers of tobacco use and help those currently addicted to tobacco to quit. It's time to create a healthier Iowa by reducing tobacco use. The TUPC Commission stands ready as a resource to the General Assembly.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Nichols, PharmD, BCPS
Chair
Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Commission

<https://www.who.int/activities/raising-taxes-on-tobacco>
<https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us>