

Dan's Talking Points:: Senate Hearing on Tobacco Policy 2020-02-12

- **Good Afternoon**, Senator Pan and Committee members. I am Dan Peddycord, Director of Public Health for Contra Costa Health Services and **I am joined today by Dr. Chris Farnitano**, our County Health Officer.
  - We **appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee** and offer some insights as to how we are using **local policy** to address the epidemic of **youth use of tobacco** related products.
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- **In 2016**, Contra Costa witnessed the start of an alarming increase in the prevalence of youth vaping.
- **Slide #2** illustrates this in three of our local high schools. You will note that **Martinez High school** jumped from 8% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders who said they had vaped in the past 30 days **to 30%** in the two years between surveys. **Additionally**, In the 2017-18 survey **Acalanes High School**, which is in Lafayette was noted as having the highest rate of youth vaping in the entire Bay Area – at **25%, at that time**.
- **In response** to this urgent Public Health concern, Contra Costa adopted an ordinance to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products in proximity to youth sensitive areas - **included flavored e-cigarettes** in July of 2017.
- Subsequently, with the **emergence of acute vaping associated illness** and **reflecting on the data noted above** the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors **extended their ban** on the sale of flavored tobacco products to the entire unincorporated county in the **fall of 2019**. **AND additionally banned the sale of ALL vaping products in the unincorporated County**.
- This specific **action was taken in recognition** that none of these products had yet met the **required FDA pre-market review** and authorization process, that went into effect in August of 2016.

- As you are aware on **September 25, 2019**, before the US House Subcommittee on **Oversight and Investigations**, Dr. **Norman Sharpless**, **Interim Director** of the US Food and Drug Administration stated...
- **“No Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS) product in the United States is on the market legally.** “All e-cigarettes currently on the market are illegal because they haven’t been assessed by the FDA.”
- The **immediate goal** of the Contra Costa ordinance was to **create conditions in the retail environment that are protective to youth.**
- If the exposure to **fine particulate** matter and **tobacco constituents** is not enough, these products, as you are aware, contain substantial amounts of **nicotine**, one of the most **addictive substances** ever added to a consumer product and **stand to dramatically reverse a decades** long trend of tobacco prevention in youth.
- It is our hope that these actions will **help curb the surge in youth use**, which in turn will yield long term health improvement and prevent countless numbers of cases of respiratory illness, cancer and death.

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