



Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine

A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine

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FASAM

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Stephanie Stewart, MD, MPH,
FASAM

February 8, 2024

The Honorable Tony Exum
Chair
Senate Committee on Local Government & Housing
200 E Colfax Avenue, SCR 352
Denver, CO 80203

Re: COSAM's Support for SB24-022, Bill to Regulate Flavored Tobacco Products

Dear Senator Exum:

On behalf of the Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine (COSAM), the medical specialty society representing physicians and clinicians in Colorado specializing in the prevention and treatment of addiction, we write today in support of SB24-022. This important legislation would allow county commissioners enhanced authority to regulate nicotine and tobacco products. Specifically, SB24-022 would allow county officials to prohibit the distribution of flavored nicotine and tobacco products, aligning with recommendations from the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)'s policy statement on e-cigarettes.¹

Simply put, we believe that flavored tobacco products pose a significant risk to the public, specifically to young people who are major consumers of these products. The enactment of SB24-022 could abate use. Although traditional cigarette smoking continues to decrease among American teens, use of flavored electronic cigarettes remains a major concern. According to 2023 national estimates, e-cigarettes were the most used tobacco product among middle and high school aged students.² Further, an estimated 16% of high school students in Colorado use electronic cigarettes, higher than the national average. Nationally, nearly 90% of the students who use electronic cigarettes report consuming flavored products.³ The long-term effects of this early usage are unknown.

There is a risk that electronic cigarette use will lead to subsequent combustible tobacco and other drug use. While tobacco use has decreased in the general population, prevalence is higher in minority groups, including those with low socioeconomic status and mental health disorders. Tobacco threatens our patients in particular; as tobacco-related illness is the leading cause of death among persons with substance use disorders.⁴

COSAM strongly supports SB24-022 and is grateful to the bill sponsors. This bill aims to

reduce harmful tobacco use while also respecting the key role of local elected officials.
Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any other assistance that we can provide.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Stewart MD, MPHS, FASAM
Public Policy Liaison, Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine (COSAM)
stephanie.stewart@ucdenver.edu
Cell: 847 525 3527

CC: The Honorable Julie Gonzales
The Honorable Sonya Jaquez Lewis
The Honorable Byron Pelton
The Honorable Rod Pelton
The Honorable Janice Rich
The Honorable Faith Winter

¹ ASAM - American Society of Addiction Medicine. (2021). E-Cigarettes. [asam.org.
https://www.asam.org/advocacy/public-policy-statements/details/public-policy-statements/2021/08/09/e-cigarettes](https://www.asam.org/advocacy/public-policy-statements/details/public-policy-statements/2021/08/09/e-cigarettes)

² Birdsey, J., Cornelius, M., Jamal, A., Park-Lee, E., Cooper, M. R., Wang, J., Sawdey, M. D., Cullen, K. A., & Neff, L. (2023). Tobacco Product Use Among U.S. Middle and High School Students – National Youth Tobacco Survey, 2023. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7244a1.htm>

³ Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. (2023). The Toll of Tobacco in Colorado.
<https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/colorado>

⁴ American Society of Addiction Medicine. (2022). Integrating Tobacco Use Disorder Interventions in Addiction Treatment. [asam.org. https://www.asam.org/quality-care/clinical-guidelines/tobacco](https://www.asam.org/quality-care/clinical-guidelines/tobacco)



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February 8, 2024

The Honorable Rhonda Fields
Chair
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
200 E Colfax Avenue, SCR 357
Denver, CO 80203

Re: COSAM's Support SB24-047, Prevention of Substance Use Disorders

Dear Senator Fields:

On behalf of the Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine (COSAM), the medical specialty society representing physicians and clinicians in Colorado specializing in the prevention and treatment of addiction, we write today in support of SB24-047. This expansive legislation contains provisions to address various prevention efforts for substance-use disorder (SUD) in our state. Specifically, SB24-047 would dedicate more resources to communities of the highest need and invest in the implementation of substance use screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) system statewide. Further, it would allow for the collection of more data on the prevalence of SUD and overdose fatalities.

Each year, thousands of Coloradans tragically lose their lives to overdose.¹ A key part of a wholistic approach to combat the overdose crisis is a significant investment in the prevention of SUD. As the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) notes in its policy statement on prevention, effective prevention measures can reduce serious injury and death associated with substance use, misuse, and SUD and improve quality of life.² Further, evidence-based prevention measures can increase productivity and potentially save taxpayers money.³ Simply put, pursuing effective prevention measures is a sound financial investment that saves lives.

As one important prevention investment, among many, we would like to highlight SB24-047's proposed expansion of SBIRT on a statewide basis. SBIRT is a recommended practice by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF).⁴ Specifically, the expanded adoption SBIRT in primary care can prove essential to retain patients and continue to provide services. Ultimately, proper investments in SBIRT up front can save costs associated with substance misuse/SUD in the future. As such, its proposed expansion is a worthy step and one that could prove highly beneficial for Coloradans.

On the whole, SB24-047 takes significant steps towards properly investing in a range of impactful prevention measures for SUD. As such, COSAM strongly supports SB24-047 and urges for its continued advancement. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. And please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any other assistance that we can provide.

Stephanie Stewart MD, MPHS, FASAM
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Cell: 847 525 3527

CC: The Honorable Joann Ginal
The Honorable Lisa Cutter
The Honorable Sonya Jaquez Lewis
The Honorable Dafna Michaelson Jenet
The Honorable Kyle Mullica
The Honorable Janice Rich
The Honorable Jim Smallwood
The Honorable Perry Will

¹ National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics. (2023). Drug Overdose Death Rates. NCDAS.
<https://drugabusestatistics.org/drug-overdose-deaths/#colorado>

² ASAM - American Society of Addiction Medicine. (2023, September 26). Prevention. asam.org.
<https://www.asam.org/advocacy/public-policy-statements/details/public-policy-statements/2023/09/27/prevention>

³ Ropero-Miller, J. D., & Speaker, P. J. (2019). The hidden costs of the opioid crisis and the implications for financial management in the Public Sector. *Forensic Science International: Synergy*, 1, 227–238.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fsisyn.2019.09.003>

⁴ Curry, S. J., Krist, A. H., Owens, D. K., Barry, M. J., Caughey, A. B., Davidson, K. W., Doubeni, C. A., Epling, J. W., Kemper, A. R., Kubik, M., Landefeld, C. S., Mangione, C. M., Silverstein, M., Simon, M. A., Tseng, C.-W., & Wong, J. B. (2018). Screening and behavioral counseling interventions to reduce unhealthy alcohol use in adolescents and adults. *JAMA*, 320(18), 1899. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2018.16789>



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Stephanie Stewart, MD, MPH,
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February 8, 2024

The Honorable Jessie Danielson
Chair
Senate Committee on Business, Labor, & Technology
200 E Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Re: COSAM's Support for SB24-048 Substance Use Disorders Recovery

Dear Senator Danielson:

On behalf of the Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine (COSAM), the medical specialty society representing physicians and clinicians in Colorado specializing in the prevention and treatment of addiction, we write today to offer our support for SB24-048. This important legislation includes several provisions to assist individuals in recovery, including providing grants through recovery support services grant programs for the purpose of guiding individuals on pathways for recovery.

Taken together, the provisions of SB24-048 represent an important step to support individuals in recovery and reduce stigma. Addiction is a treatable, chronic medical disease. Enhancing access to evidence-based treatment for substance use disorder (SUD) is an essential goal. Additionally, providing continued support to those in recovery is another important component within the treatment process. SB24-048 includes provisions to ensure that the public is aware of the many pathways to recovery. Ultimately, people with SUD can lead highly fulfilling and productive lives. SB24-048 would take steps to ensure that the state is supporting individuals at every stage of their recovery journey.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation. We are proud to support SB24-048 and urge you to support its advancement. Please contact me if I can provide any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Stewart MD, MPH, FASAM
Public Policy Liaison, Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine (COSAM)
stephanie.stewart@ucdenver.edu
Cell: 847 525 3527

CC: The Honorable Nick Hinrichsen
The Honorable Mark Baisley
The Honorable James Coleman
The Honorable Joann Ginal
The Honorable Larry Liston
The Honorable Tom Sullivan

