



Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine

A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine

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October 30, 2024

Re: COSAM's Support for Prohibiting Flavored Tobacco Products in Denver

Dear Denver City Council,

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 a ban of flavored tobacco products in Denver, which would prohibit the sale of flavored e-cigarettes. This important proposal aligns 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. 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.³

There is a risk that electronic cigarette use will lead to subsequent combustible tobacco use. And 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.

For these reasons, COSAM strongly supports this proposal and is grateful to Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez, Shontel M. Lewis, and Darrell Watson for its introduction. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any other assistance that we can provide.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Stewart MD, MPHS, FASAM
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