



# Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine

*A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine*

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Stephanie Stewart, MD

The Honorable Jennifer Bacon  
Colorado House of Representatives  
200 East Colfax Ave, Room 307  
Denver, CO 80203

The Honorable Kyle Mullica  
Colorado House of Representatives  
200 East Colfax Ave, Room 307  
Denver, CO 80203

The Honorable Rhonda Fields  
Colorado Senate  
200 East Colfax Ave, Room 346  
Denver, CO 80203

The Honorable Kevin Priola  
Colorado Senate  
200 East Colfax Ave, Room 346  
Denver, CO 80203

## Re: COSAM's Support for HB22-1064

Dear Representatives Bacon & Mullica, Senators Fields & Priola:

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 HB22-1064. This important legislation would prohibit the marketing and sale of flavored nicotine products, aligning with recommendations from the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)'s policy statement on e-cigarettes.<sup>i</sup>

We are greatly concerned about the still-unknown risk to young people who are major consumers of electronic cigarettes and believe that this legislation could abate use. Although cigarette smoking continues to decrease among American teens, use of electronic cigarettes has been escalating. According to surveys, one in four Colorado youth currently use e-cigarettes.<sup>ii</sup> The long-term effects of this 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.<sup>iii</sup>

COSAM strongly supports HB22-1064 and is grateful to the bill sponsors. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any other assistance that we can provide.

Stephanie Stewart MD, MPHS, FASAM  
Public Policy Liaison, Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine (COSAM)  
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<sup>i</sup> American Society of Addiction Medicine. (2020). *E-Cigarettes*. asam.org. Retrieved from <https://www.asam.org/advocacy/public-policy-statements/details/public-policy-statements/2021/08/09/e-cigarettes>

<sup>ii</sup> Tobacco Free Colorado. (2020). *News: Colorado No Longer Top in the Nation for Youth Vaping but There's More Work to be Done*. Tobacco Free Colorado. Retrieved April 7, 2022, from <https://www.tobaccofreeco.org/product/vaping-and-ecigs/colorado-no-longer-top-in-the-nation-for-youth-vaping-but-theres-more-work-to-be-done/>

<sup>iii</sup> 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>