



Signature Report

Resolution 20-04

Proposed No. 20-04.1

Sponsors

1 A RESOLUTION encouraging the Washington state
2 Legislature to adopt broad regulations to protect
3 Washington's youth from the potential harmful effects of
4 vapor product use.

5 WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization, the prevalence of
6 tobacco smoking has decreased steadily since the beginning of the twenty-first century,
7 and

8 WHEREAS, in 2016 the United States Office of the Surgeon General released a
9 report on E-Cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults, and

10 WHEREAS, most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, a highly addictive chemical that
11 can harm adolescent brain development, and

12 WHEREAS, the younger an individual start using nicotine, the more likely they
13 will become addicted, and

14 WHEREAS, one in four high school seniors in King County report vaping in the
15 past 30 days, and

16 WHEREAS, on July 18, 2019, the King County Board of Health was briefed on
17 vaping in King County by Public Health - Seattle & King County subject matter experts
18 and representatives from the youth, LGBTQ and educator communities on the impacts of
19 vaping and their experience, and

20 WHEREAS, as of December 27, 2019, a total of 2,561 hospitalized cases of lung
21 injury associated with vaping known as EVALI, including 55 deaths, have been reported
22 to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("the CDC"), and

23 WHEREAS, as of December 12, 2019, seven incidents of severe lung disease
24 associated with vaping have been reported in King County, and

25 WHEREAS, on September 27, 2019, Governor Jay Inslee issued Executive Order
26 19-03 that directed the Washington state Department of Health to ban flavored vapor
27 products and work to identify the cause of a recent outbreak of vaping-related lung
28 injuries, and

29 WHEREAS, the King County Board of Health submitted a letter to the
30 Washington state Board of Health supporting the need to act and demonstrating the King
31 County Board of Health's commitment to taking action to prevent vaping-related lung
32 injuries, and

33 WHEREAS, the Washington state Board of Health adopted an emergency rule to
34 create chapter 246-80 WAC to ban the sale of flavored vapor products for 120 days
35 beginning October 10, 2019, and

36 WHEREAS, on November 18, 2019, the Washington state Board of Health
37 adopted a new section to their emergency rule that bans the sale of vapor products
38 containing vitamin E acetate due to the prevalence of this compound in laboratory test
39 samples conducted by the CDC, and

40 WHEREAS, as of January 2, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration ("the
41 FDA") stated that to date, no e-cigarette or other electronic nicotine delivery systems
42 ("ENDS") products have been authorized by the FDA, which means that all ENDS

43 products currently on the market are considered illegally marketed and are subject to
44 enforcement, at any time, at the FDA's discretion, and

45 WHEREAS, on January 2, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a
46 notice that they intend to prioritize enforcement of only some illegally marketed ENDS
47 products by focusing on flavored, cartridge-based ENDS products and not menthol, and

48 WHEREAS, cartridge-based ENDS products are the primary vaping products
49 used by minors and menthol is the most popular e-cigarette flavor used by teens, and

50 WHEREAS, mint is the herb plant that produces menthol, and

51 WHEREAS, cartridge-based ENDS products, while not sold as refillable, are in
52 fact easily refillable with e-liquid products that will remain on the shelves in thousands of
53 sweet candy-like flavors, and

54 WHEREAS, 97 percent of youth who vape used a flavored e-cigarette in the past
55 month and most students report vaping for flavor, and

56 WHEREAS, Washington state law preempts local jurisdictions from enacting
57 policies locally that could be more stringent than state law to prohibit youth from access
58 to vapor products;

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF
60 KING COUNTY:

61 The Board of Health encourages the Washington state Legislature to adopt broad

62 regulations to protect Washington's youth from the potential harmful effects of vapor
63 product use.
64

Resolution 20-04 was introduced on and passed by the Board of Health on 1/16/2020,
by the following vote:

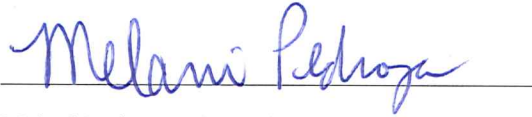
Yes: 9 - Mr. McDermott, Dr. Delecki, Ms. Honda, Dr. Daniell, Ms.
Kohl-Welles, Ms. Marx and Mr. Lewis
Excused: 4 - Ms. Lambert, Mr. Baker, Ms. Mosqueda and Ms.
Morales

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None