

From: Aaron Kusano <aaron.kusano@anchorageradiationtherapy.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 9:17 AM

To: Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>

Subject: SB45

Hello Senator Costello,

I am a radiation oncologist in Anchorage, treating cancer patients from all across our state. I am writing to you about taxation of e-cigarettes (SB45).

While many think only of lung cancer when it comes to tobacco, it contributes to cancer of many sites including head and neck, esophagus, stomach, cervix, colon and bladder.

I see the dangers every day when patients are still unable to quit despite undergoing months of treatment for their tobacco induced cancers.

E-cigarette use is an epidemic particularly among youth. It creates new smokers by the false label as a "safe alternative".

There is consistent evidence that children and adolescents that use them are significantly more likely to go onto smoke traditional cigarettes.

I view this from my lense as a cancer physician, but that does not adequately represent the heart and lung effects in the population of smokers.

E-cigarettes must be taxed at the same rate as other tobacco products. They contain the same addictive nicotine and should be looked at the same way that cigarettes are.

A bullet takes a firearm to be harmful. We should not fall into a semantic/technical trap by treating components of e-cigarette delivery systems differently. The entire e-cigarette device should be taxed.

Strong e-cigarette taxation is necessary to fulfill it's public health goals and protect current and future Alaskans. I ask that you support such efforts.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Aaron Kusano